

EDITORIAL

Celebrate noble profession of Doctors

Doctors are our saviors; they are front-line warriors to take our pain away and make us healthy to live a healthy and stress-free life and to honor them. Acknowledging their valuable contribution, we celebrate National Doctor's Day on July 1 of every year. This is to dedicate our white-coat heroes and the sacrifice they make by working night and day non-stop just to make our lives healthier by addressing numerous health issues. Doctors are known to not only possess exceptional medical skills but also exemplify empathy, compassion, and kindness. The bond between a doctor and a patient is normally built on trust, open communication, and mutual respect. The significance of a doctor-patient relationship brings out its positive impact on treatment outcomes. The motive is to create a friendly environment so that any individual dealing with health challenges does not hesitate to discuss the complications they are experiencing with their health. National Doctor's Day is an occasion to express our gratitude and admiration for the doctors who have dedicated their lives to healing others, to make sure they can live with no distress. Through their compassion, expertise, and unwavering commitment, doctors make a lasting impact on individuals, families, and communities. The landscape of medicine has evolved significantly over the years, presenting countless challenges and opportunities for doctors. From addressing workforce burnout and healthcare inequalities to adopting advancements in artificial intelligence and telemedicine, physicians have shown remarkable resilience. National Doctor's Day 2025 is occasions to not only thank doctors but also to reflect on their contributions and find ways to support them in navigating these new realities. From busy clinics to emergency rooms, doctors' dedication to their patients never goes down. They play diverse roles in our lives, including but not limited to diagnosing illnesses, prescribing treatments, performing surgeries, and offering counseling to patients to make sure not only their physical health but also their mental health is taken care of. They even work after office hours in certain cases to ensure a patient's health cannot be troubled. Doctors hold the fort against all kinds of illnesses, diseases and work on making other's health better. Their contributions to ensuring that we live a good life are immense. They tend to the patients, assure them, provide the necessary medication, and make sure that the patient gets better with time. They play a valuable role in ensuring the well-being of people. Their selfless service to society should be celebrated and respected every day.

DISCLAIMER

"Jammu Bulletin" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

Edited, Printed, Published and owned by

Ankush Mahajan

Published at Plot No. 4A, 1st Floor, Set or-3, Surya Chowk, Channi Himmat Jammu (J&K)

Printed at JK Printing and Publications, Sunjwan, Jammu (Tawi).

E-mail: jammubulletin@gmail.com

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu only.

AAP's byelection wins spark political revival

BY
KALYANI
SHANKAR

Once seen as a Delhi-centric outfit, AAP's latest wins in BJP stronghold of West and Visavadar signal not only a shift in public sentiment but also the party's growing national stature

The Aam Aadmi Party is delighted after its recent win in the Gujarat and Punjab by-elections. These victories in states dominated by the BJP indicate a shift in the Party's fortunes.

The AAP, once viewed as a Delhi-centric party ruling only in Delhi, has expanded over the years, gaining a national character. It now governs Punjab and is beginning to make inroads in states like Gujarat, which has long been considered a stronghold of the BJP.

The AAP was founded by Arvind Kejriwal in 2012, following his departure from Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, which claimed to transform Indian politics. Leading a successful movement, Kejriwal first became the Chief Minister of Delhi in 2013.

He was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Delhi for the second time on February 14, 2015. He first

assumed office on December 28, 2013, becoming the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi. The AAP ruled Delhi from 2015 until 2025.

The by-election victory is vital for Kejriwal after his Party's loss in February's Delhi Assembly poll. Atishi, the former chief minister, stated, "The victories in Ludhiana West and Visavadar show that people want effective governance. Underestimating Arvind Kejriwal's approach is a mistake — he plans to implement his model nationwide. Congratulations to the people of Ludhiana and Visavadar, and best wishes to AAP workers in Punjab and Gujarat."

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) retained the Ludhiana West assembly seat in Punjab, with Sanjeev Arora defeating Congress's Bharat Bhushan Ashu by 10,637 votes.

In Gujarat's Junagadh district, Gopal Italia won against BJP's Kirit Patel in Visavadar by 17,554 votes. AAP has now achieved victories in both seats with double the margins compared to the 2022 elections. These victories have provided hope for the Party's leaders, workers, and supporters. Although winning or losing is part of electoral politics, what truly matters is a party's ability to recover and thrive.

With the approaching Assembly polls

scheduled for 2027, AAP's double victory indicates a clear indication that AAP is not out. Only in February did the AAP face a setback in the Delhi Assembly polls, resulting in the end of its ten-year rule, with the BJP winning 48 out of 70 seats.

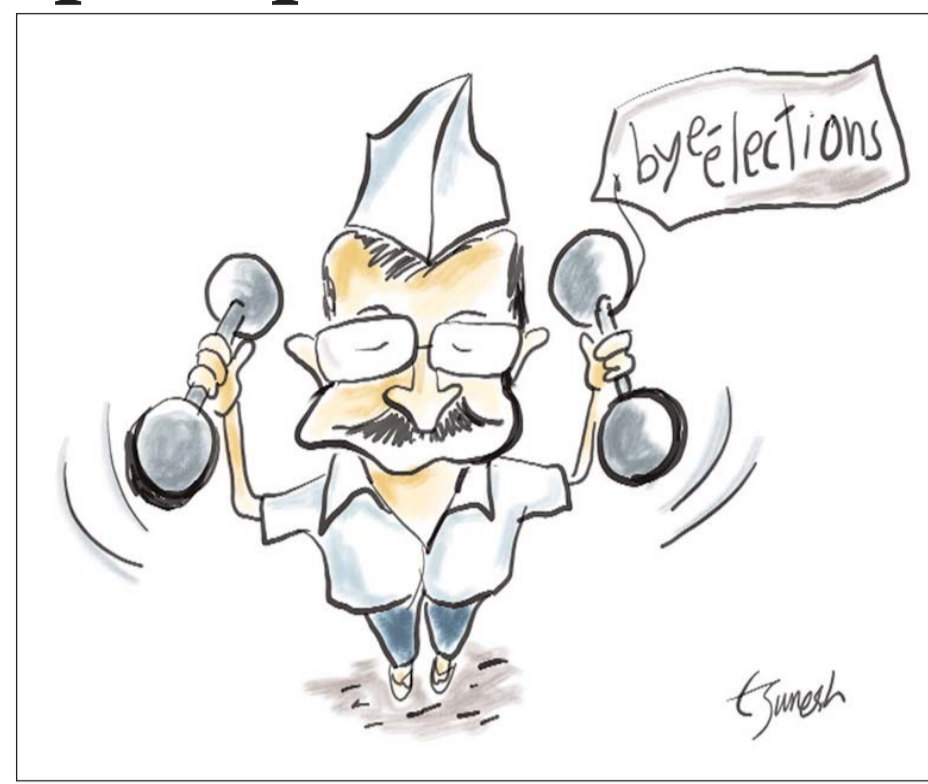
Political fortunes can shift quickly, and this time, they have favoured Kejriwal and his Party. The defeat of both the Congress and BJP was a significant setback for them, the AAP chief noted.

The success in by-elections demonstrates the Party's ability to sustain itself and recover from setbacks. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is expected to secure one seat in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. Many believe that Kejriwal will enter the Rajya Sabha despite his stated intention not to do so. However, his unpredictability is evident, as he has often said one thing and done another.

What would be the impact of AAP's victory in the by-polls on national politics? The Party has a fascinating history, facing both successes and setbacks. In the past 12 years, it has emerged as a national party and a political force.

It ruled Punjab and Delhi (until February). The Party's growth has been fueled by its adoption of welfare policies and the offering of free benefits.

The AAP's approach, centred on efficient public service delivery



and direct engagement with citizens, prioritises immediate improvements in the quality of life. This fresh approach has given the Party a unique standing in Indian politics. The AAP suffered a considerable setback when it lost the Delhi Government in the 2025 Assembly polls to the BJP.

To its utter shock, its convener Kejriwal, along with some of his senior colleagues, also lost their seats. Meanwhile, the Party's image plummeted drastically when Kejriwal and some of his ministers were jailed for alleged corruption. He handed over power to his colleague, Atishi, until the elections.

It was a bitter loss for the Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP), as it not only failed to return to power in Delhi but also saw many of its top leaders, including Kejriwal, defeated by the BJP. There were other reasons for the loss. It includes the disenchantment of the middle classes over the AAP and its leaders. AAP's welfare schemes mainly benefit lower-income groups while neglecting the salaried middle class. Slum dwellers, migrant workers, and day-wage labourers — AAP's loyal voter base — receive subsidies and cash transfers, leaving those in the middle-income group feeling overlooked.

Once a hero to the middle class and marginalised, Kejriwal's aura has faded. Yet, the uncanny politician

cannot be written off after the by-election win.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is part of the Opposition coalition INDIA and worked with Congress in the 2024 elections. However, both parties have realised that this partnership has not helped either.

After the by-election win, Kejriwal has declared that now the AAP is considering running independently in the upcoming elections. This decision, along with the AAP's stronger presence in the opposition following its recent by-election wins, makes the Party's future in Indian politics quite interesting.

(The author is a popular columnist. Views are personal)

ILO's long-overdue move on the platform economy

BY
PUJA PAL,
AMIT KUMAR

ILO's proposal to create binding global standards for gig and platform workers marks a turning point for labour rights

The International Labour Organization (ILO) concluded its 113th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, held from June 2-13, 2025. Every year, government, employer, and worker representatives from 187 member states convene at the ILC to shape international labour standards and define the ILO's broad policy directions.

One of the key highlights of this conference was the discussion on 'Decent Work in the Platform Economy,' which appeared as the fifth item on the agenda. This marked the first standard-setting discussion on this subject. The ILO Governing Body had initially proposed this agenda item in 2021, adopting a double discussion procedure, with the first session at the 113th ILC (2025) and the second scheduled for the 114th ILC in 2026.

Big Breakthrough A major breakthrough of the 113th

ILC was the consensus to develop binding global labour standards specifically for the platform economy. These discussions were grounded in an ILO report that outlined the types and scope of possible standards and addressed the critical issue of how to define both platform workers and digital labour platforms. It was officially agreed that the item would return to the 114th ILC for a second discussion, to adopt a new Convention, supplemented by a Recommendation.

The ILO's proposed Convention and Recommendation signify a major step toward regulating the rapidly expanding gig and platform economy. Currently, there is no internationally accepted definition of digital platform workers, nor are there binding international labour standards that specifically address their working conditions.

Platform workers often face decent work deficits, including a lack of social security, income instability, and limited access to fundamental workers' rights. This is largely due to their misclassification as self-employed, which excludes them from national labour protections. Beyond these challenges, platform workers are also subject to algorithmic management, opaque data practices, involuntary account deactivations, and limited recourse in disputes.

As India rolls out

social security measures for gig workers, the ILO's standard-setting proposal could serve as a reference point in shaping the country's regulatory frameworks for platform work.

The proposed international standards aim to comprehensively address these gaps by introducing globally agreed definitions of terms like digital labour platforms, platform workers, intermediaries, and remuneration. If adopted, the standards would require the member states to guarantee platform workers the fundamental rights at work, including freedom of association, protection from forced and child labour, non-discrimination, and occupational safety and health.

It would also address the issue of proper employment classification to prevent misclassification of platform workers. It also includes social security protections to all platform workers and provisions related to crucial issues such as algorithmic transparency, data privacy, account deactivation, and the use of automated systems.

Regulatory Efforts Globally, countries are in the process of developing frameworks to regulate the gig and platform economy. The regulatory efforts to protect platform workers are relatively at a nascent stage, mostly emerging since 2022, with governments worldwide

adopting three main approaches: Amending existing labour laws to include platform workers (US, Belgium, Chile & Ecuador), introducing standalone legislation specifically for gig and platform workers (EU, Argentina, Peru), and clarifying the employment status of platform workers to extend existing protections (Portugal & Mauritius).

So far, most regulatory initiatives have come from high-income countries, particularly in Europe, North America, and Latin America. Thus, ILO's standard-setting proposal would also provide a global reference point for countries currently shaping their own regulatory frameworks for platform work.

India's Move

While these discussions at the ILO are shaping global norms, India has also undertaken significant national reforms to protect its platform workforce. The Code on Social Security (CSS) 2020 recognises platform workers as a distinct category and lays the groundwork for comprehensive welfare measures, including life and disability insurance, accident coverage, health and maternity benefits, pension schemes, and crèche facilities. The CSS 2020 also envisages a Social Security Fund and the creation of a National Social Security Board for oversight.

India's e-Shram portal, a national digital

database, has already registered over 300 million unorganised workers, including gig and platform, enabling targeted delivery of welfare benefits. The Union Budget 2025-26 further supported this workforce with key announcements including unique identity cards to platform workers, simplifying the registration process via e-Shram and Extending access to healthcare under the PM Jan Arogya Yojana.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment's pilot initiative is actively onboarding platform workers and aggregators onto the e-Shram portal. Major companies like Urban Company, Zomato, Blinkit, and Uncle Delivery have already joined this effort.

Additionally, States such as Rajasthan and Karnataka have enacted legislations, and Jharkhand has proposed draft Bills specifically for gig workers, which provide measures for the social security of these workers.

However, India's approach has faced criticism for focusing primarily on social security coverage without clearly addressing the critical issue of employment classification. As a developing country, India faces the dual challenge of protecting platform workers while fostering innovation, job creation, and the flexibility that the sector offers. Estimates show that the costs of plat-

forms will increase by 20-30 per cent if the workers are classified as employees. Nevertheless, expanding social security coverage to millions of platform workers remains a significant step toward improving their working conditions.

The ongoing tripartite negotiations at the ILO are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of work globally. The eventual adoption of a Convention and Recommendation will mark a turning point in the regulation of platform work and could help close major regulatory gaps in the gig economy.

The next key milestone will be the ratification by member states, which will determine the real-world impact of these international standards. The ILO's proactive efforts to recognise the rights of platform workers are both timely and commendable. Developing international labour standards for this sector is essential to ensure that the rights, protections, and dignified working conditions of platform workers are universally acknowledged and enforced.

(Puja Pal is Associate Fellow at VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, and Amit Kumar is Assistant Professor of Economics at Christ University, Delhi NCR. Views are personal)