

# EMPTY VESSELS MAKE MORE NOISE

A Report on Delhi's AAP Government

AAP failed on 67 out of 70 promises: Report

Implement Ayushman Bharat in Delhi:

Choking in Delhi: How AAP has failed the capital

Delhi government hospitals fail to increase bed count in intensive care units

AAp betrayed Delhiites on 96% of its promises Delhi HC revokes appointment of 21 Parliamentary secretaries by Arvind Kejriwal govt

Unauthorised colonies: After 5 failed attempts by Delhi govt, mapping task now with DDA

## PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

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#### **PREFACE**

Governance is a sacred responsibility. An elected representative enters the office not just with the aspirations for building a better society and with the responsibilities and accountability towards the people. That is the very essence of democracy. When a leader begins disregarding the very people who got him there, when the leader steps back on the principles he swore by and when a leader begins misleading the people who reposed faith in him, one must understand that democracy is under threat.

Delhi is at such a juncture. Ignored by decades of apathy and laggard governments, the national capital is in need of a serious deliberation. It is rather unfortunate that the capital city of a progressive nation like India has to even today deal with water and electricity woes, drainage problems, basic amenities among others. Delhi is on a ticking bomb and needs an immediate solution to problems lingering from decades. Over the last five years, Delhi has reached a threshold limit and the cracks are beginning to turn into massive ruptures. It is thus extremely important to highlight the facts and bring them into public purview. The people of Delhi have a right to be informed about the truth.

The team is conducting a thorough analysis of various facets of governance and their current condition. Be it water, education, public health, infrastructural development among others. However, one fact that came to light is the brazen disregard for public sentiments and aspirations by the CM's office. a deeper analysis revealed

complete lack of honesty of purpose on part of a CM who was elected on the electoral plank of 'Aam Aadmi'. The same 'Aam Aadmi' who is nowhere in the scheme of things as we see it. Some of the issues which were highlighted as key areas where the AAP government claimed to have a perspective have been dealt with in the report. The report finds interesting facts about the status of those issues and how the government has not only failed to address them but is unwilling to even acknowledge them.

The report is thus a complete and objective analysis of few pertinent issues and tries to bring facts in the public domain. We would be pleased to receive feedback and value addition to the report.

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Director, PPRC

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#### INTRODUCTION

Delhi symbolizes a beautiful amalgamation of cultures, traditions and regional identities. It has been the centre of national discourse be it our historical past or current national polity. The national capital, home to over 20 million people, today needs a serious rethink. Through this study we intend to draw attention to the fact that a Delhi resident struggles each day to gain access to the most basic amenities like water, drainage, sanitation, schooling, waste disposal among many others. The city administration had indeed turned a blind eye to what is apparent but unfortunately accepted as a way of life by the people. The study would bring the key features to the fore and enable a black and white picture of Delhi in terms of the challenges glaring in the face.

A recent survey by The Economist Intelligence Unit, the national capital has dropped by six places to rank 118<sup>th</sup> on a list of 140 cities across the world. Moreover, problems like pollution through vehicles and industry, lack of drinking water and electricity, housing impact every resident and without doubt the poor are at the receiving end. Despite its existential problems, the rest of India remains attracted to the capital city for want of better lifestyle, opportunities and financial growth.

In comparison to world capitals Delhi has very persistent as well as unique problems that have been misdealt historically. Successive state governments that have little stake in the welfare of Delhi's people but more interest in power politics, have let these problems manifest and persist. The intelligentsia and the informed segment need to take stock of the rapidly declining quality of life of an average Delhiite and the dangerous indifference in even acknowledging the problem.

In this background, it is pertinent to say that the current dispensation in Delhi has completely lost the **SINCERITY OF PURPOSE**. It is the integrity and dedication of the political dispensation that forms the foundation of any development initiative and tangible policy intervention. With a gaping hole here, one can barely expect any transformation. As is evident, over the last five years, no tangible steps have been taken to address the core issues of Delhi. The government has been playing with the aspirations of residents of Delhi. The superfluous and populist initiatives along with freebies have failed to give due regard to growth and development of Delhi as a capital of great nation like India.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Public Policy research Centre has, over the years conducted several studies covering various facets of Delhi and its issues. Through our academic endeavours we have attempted to understand the challenges and aspirations of Delhi's residents and how what initiatives are required to deal with them. We began with a comprehensive report on "Delhi Tangible Transformation Project" in 2012. The report took both a macro and micro analysis of various

factors impacting the life of Delhi's residents ranging from civic amenities to basic livelihood. We also attempted to identify best practices and policy options for Delhi.

Followed by that, in 2014, building upon the findings of the earlier report we conducted a research study titled, "Understanding Aspirations of Delhi". The report focuses on basic issues like Population and Migration, Housing and Quality of life, Transportation and Traffic, Social welfare and Security and Tourism and Heritage to come up with recommendations.

With a sound secondary understanding of the issues concerning Delhi, we decided to adopt a bottom up approach and speak to the people of Delhi and understand their point of view and the challenges faced by them. In 2018, we launched a FIND Fellowship programme to conduct a primary survey across Delhi NCT. We spoke to the people on several issues ranging from governance, accountability of elected representatives, civic amenities and their expectations. We spoke to 34392 respondents from all the 70 Assembly Constituencies across Delhi. The objective of the exercise was to assess the delivery of important governance parameters across all tiers of government starting from the Central government to local government.

With salience of the manifesto as one of the important standpoints of public accountability and democracy, we conducted performance analysis of AAP vis-à-vis their 2015 Manifesto in April 2019. The study revealed that the AAP led Delhi government failed 67 out of 70 promises. The remaining three were misleading in nature as they were out of the purview of the Delhi government.

Earlier this year, in June, we came out with yet another detailed analysis on one sector that the Delhi government claims to have brought about a transformative change – Education. Our study, 'Report on Delhi Government Schools – A Factual Analysis' smashes any such false claims with facts and data. The report, on the contrary, reveals that the state of education in the state is a matter of concern.

It is important to reiterate that the current AAP Government lacks the "Honesty of Purpose" in acting on the very ideals and principals he had fought for. The study unfortunately brings to the fore extreme apathy and indifference of the Chief Minister's Office towards the people of Delhi.

Our research on this issue is just a part of a larger research study on the government of Delhi. We sourced our data from official websites, government reports, reports by various agencies of the Delhi government as well as through RTI applications. The report has been divided into several topics which the Chief Minister had raised during his movement and claimed responsibility.

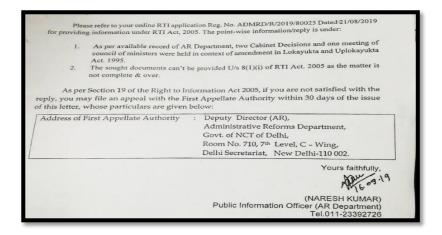
#### JAN LOK PAL

With Jan Lokpal as one of the basic planks of AAP's electoral campaigns, the party has unfortunately failed to act decisively on it after coming to power. For a Chief Minister who resigned after 49 days at the helm resigned after failing to table the Jan Lokpal bill in the assembly, no tangible progress can be seen even as we stand at the fagend of their tenure, merely 50 days before the code of conduct would be enforced.

As per the RTI reply we received on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 a meeting of council of ministers was held and two cabinet decisions were taken in context of Lokpal's appointment. The Delhi government has failed to share the details of the developments publicly and also refused to share information when asked through an RTI appeal. It is indeed quite discouraging to note that the foundation on which the Aam Aadmi Party built it stake, has turned out to be hollow.

For a CM who pats on his own back calling himself an RTI activist, this hypocrisy lays bare the double standards he applies. Thus, not only cheating the voters of Delhi but all those who supported the movement. For a CM who claimed to be a fierce advocate of the Lokpal institution and appointed Admiral L Ramdas as an internal Lokpal of the party, it was indeed shocking to note that the Lokpal was removed soon after he started discharging his duties and

addressing complaints from the people. Whatever may be the reason for his dismissal but it sure does raises credible questions on the CM's intent to fight corruption.



#### DRUG MENACE

The drug menace in Delhi is one of the biggest threats facing the nation. Delhi's youth and vulnerable children have come under the vicious trap of drug abuse, posing a potent threat to the future of the city. Unfortunately, we see no stern action by the CM to address this or even take steps to rescue and rehabilitate the victims. It is indeed ironic that the Delhi CM while campaigning in Punjab for the assembly elections in 2017, promised to make Punjab a "drug-free state" if the party was voted to power. The same party has failed to take any credible steps to address the situation in Delhi even after remining in power for 5 years.

Infact, AAP government had granted around 400 licences to new liquor stores in the city raising pertinent questions on the intent of the Delhi government over their approach towards substance abuse. The following data speaks volumes of the intent and honesty of purpose.

It is shocking to note that 90% of street children in Delhi are addicted to drugs. As per the data of government, 46,410 cases of substance abuse among street children were registered in year 2017.

### Arvind Kejriwal promises a 'drug-free' Punjab if AAP is voted to power

1 min read . Updated: 17 Jan 2017, 08:07 PM IST

live**mint** 

Drug abuse has been an ever increasing phenomenon and as per the data available there has been a massive increase in the numbers. The number of street children in Delhi estimated to be using a substance in 2017 is as follows - tobacco - 21,770, alcohol- 9,450, inhalants- 7,910, cannabis- 5,600, heroin- 840, opium- 420, pharmaceutical opioids -210 and sedatives - 210 street children.

Shockingly, 87 children died due to drug overdose (including Medicinal/Narcotics & Psychotropic Drugs) during 2015-2016. The data is based on the report of National Crime Records Bureau.

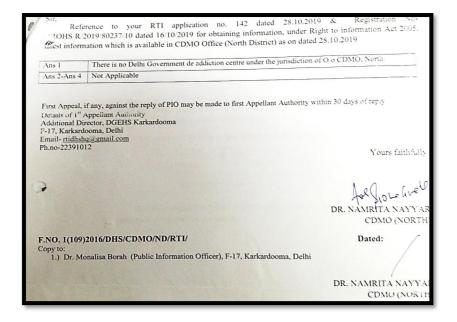
Rehabilitation and de-addiction is an important component of any serious effort to address the menace of drug abuse. As per the RTI reply, no new de-addiction centre has been opened under the Delhi government. This is evident of the fact that the Delhi government has failed to address the problem or even attempt to find solution to a situation that

# More than 90 per cent street children in Delhi drug-addicts

According to the ministry, 46,410 cases of substance abuse by street children were reported in the national capital last year.

is growing as a potent threat. No, de-addiction centres with a city dealing with drug abuse shows utter apathy and indifference on part of the authorities. They do not have a vision to control the menace that has already unleashed itself on the city. At the same time, it is important to highlight that the central government has been taking concerted efforts to address the menace. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025. The strategy for the programme involved education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected

individuals and their families<sup>12</sup>. The activities under the NAPDDR, inter-alia include awareness generation



programmes in schools/ colleges/universities, workshops/seminars/interactions with parents' community-based pear led intervention programmes for vulnerable adolescent and youth in the community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://164.100.24.220/loksabhaquestions/annex/171/AU4860.pdf

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{http://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Scheme\%20for\%20N}{APDDR.pdf}$ 

#### **UNAUTHORIZED COLONIES**

This issue can be a mirror to the Delhi government's governance for the past five years. Regularization has been a key issue in Delhi and is a promise made in the manifesto of the Aam Aadmi Party in 2015. The issue has been in the manifestos of congress since 1998. The Delhi government has failed to take action towards fulfillment of this key public demand for decades and it took the resolve of the central government to deliver the same.

As prerequisites, the AAP government was supposed to do four things to regularize these colonies:

- a. Delineate or verify the boundaries.
- b. Constitute a committee for conferring the title of land within two months of coming to power.
- c. Determine the charges or fee for regularization
- d. Supervise the overall process.

The fact remains that the Delhi government has failed on all the counts. The Delhi government did not finalize the boundaries of the unauthorized colonies and kept on seeking extension after extension. In 2017, an extension was sought till 2019, which was granted and now again a further extension of two years was sought as they submitted that the delineation cannot be completed till December 2021.

Fund Spent by Kejriwal Governmen Sanitation Facilities and					ppment,
Head (Amt. in Cr)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19(Dec.)	2019-20(June)
Jal Board for Potable Drinking Water Supply	274.00	507.00	300.00	112.50	37.5
Sewerage Facilities	335.00	200.00	235.00	225.00	75
Development of Un-Authorised colonies (DSIIDC)	135.00	300.00	249.00	100.00	0
Development of Un-Authorised colonies (PWD)	5.54	1.98	2.84	0.00	
Development of Un-Authorised colonies (I&FC)	49.01	19.00	1.66	NA	
Sanitation/ Essential Services to be carried out by MCD	121.00	3.50	0.00	0.00	
Urban Development	1.18	2.76	3.08	NA	
TOTAL	920.73	1034.24	791.58	437.50	112.5

Furthermore, even on financial terms, Delhi's Chief Minister claims that his government spent over Rs 7000 crores on unauthorized colonies, the fact remains that just Rs 3296 crores was spent in the last five years.

The Delhi government yet again brazenly displayed lack of honesty of purpose, sensing which, the central government formed the committee to recommend the way forward for regularization and with no action forthcoming from the Delhi Government, moved forward in public interest and announced the massive respite to the people of Delhi in decades. It approved 'the "National Capital Territory of

#### Bill on unauthorised colonies in Lok Sabha

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri introduced the NCT of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019 in the House. The proposal to grant ownership rights is applicable to 1,797 identified unauthorised col...

PTI | Nov 26, 2019, 03,31 PM IST

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

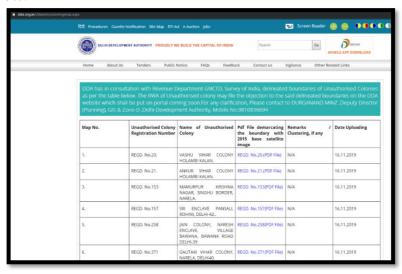
Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorized Colonies) Bill, 2019", which provides a legal framework to grant ownership rights to the people living in unauthorized colonies in the city, a move that will benefit 40 to 50 lakh people.

With this decision, the applicants will get the ownership certificate within 180 days from the date of application. The launch of a portal will 'define and delineate' the boundaries of the identified unauthorized colonies using satellite imagery. Keeping in view the socio-economic conditions of the residents of these unauthorized colonies and ground realities, it is necessitated to recognize and confer rights of ownership or transfer or mortgage to the residents of such colonies on the basis of Power of Attorney. The Bill aims to recognize the power of agreement, Agreement to Sell, Purchase and Possession documents as a special one-time relaxation.

Land is a major issue in Delhi because properties, whether in the form of plot of land or built up space are generally held through the General Power of Attorney, Will, Agreement to Sale, Payment and Possession documents. The properties in these colonies are not being registered by registration authorities, and so the residents do not have any title documents and the banks and financial institutions do not extend credit facilities like home loans. In 1962, Delhi had only 110 unauthorised colonies, built-in contravention of zoning regulations, where some two-lakh people lived.

Migration continued but agencies failed to meet the growing low-cost housing demands.

Land acquisition hurdles and encroachments made matters worse. The number of illegal settlements climbed to 1,200 by 2017 as the execution of legal actions like demolition drives by the successive governments had long gone out of the equation due to electoral compulsions. In fact, granting legit tags to these neighbourhoods has been a poll plank for all parties in the recent years. Currently, a sizable population od Delhi lives in 1,731 unauthorised colonies - many without basic services like waste management, proper roads, parks, water supply, sewage lines and parking lots.



It is highly unfortunate, that while on one hand the central government built 17.8 million homes under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana, giving the beneficiaries, across socio-economic strata, an opportunity to have a house of their own, on the other, residents of Delhi did not have the legal right to call a house their own even after purchasing it with their hard earned money. Facing decades of political apathy, the people of Delhi have at last got justice they always deserved with due efforts by the central government.

The Image above is a screenshot of the details of delineated boundaries uploaded on the website.

Moving swiftly on its commitment, the central government has announced that from Dec 16, 2019, residents in Delhi's unauthorised colonies can apply for ownership rights online. The applicants will get the ownership certificate within 180 days from the date of application. They have also directed the resident welfare associations to look at the boundaries delineated using satellite imagery and convey their suggestions and objections within 15 days. By December end, 100 residents would get their ownership deeds which will kick start the PM-UDAY (Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana) across Delhi.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Mechanized Vacuum Cleaning Vehicles, Windblown dust comprising of particulate matter (10 & 2.5) a major contributor of Delhi's pollution. In fact, in some cases, it even goes up to 51% of the suspended air particles. To tackle this issue, the Delhi's ruling party declared in its 2015 manifesto and various statements that they will launch mechanized vacuum cleaning vehicles in Delhi.

Astonishingly, our RTI applications to the authorities variously came back with replies of zero vacuum vehicles pressed into service in the past five years, excepting one particular instance i.e. PWD Department's South-West Road Division, where just one vehicle has been procured that too on hire basis.

Reducing Pollution: Delhi Ridge, the lung of the city, will be protected from encroachment and deforestation. Environmentally appropriate afforestation would be carried out in all parts of Delhi in collaboration with the local Mohalla Sabhas. We will acquire mechanized vacuum cleaning vehicles to clean the city. Public transport will be improved to reduce the number of cars on the road. Additionally, incentives will be provided for low emission fuels like CNG and electricity. Government will encourage car-pooling and will crackdown on fuel adulteration to reduce pollution.

Above is an excerpt from the AAP 2015 Manifesto

Delhi government often tried to fight the monstrous menace of air pollution with tiny saplings while patting itself on the back and calling itself proactive. A 2018 CAG

report on Delhi said that the plantation of 28.12 lakh trees, between 2014 and 2017, could not lead to a commensurate increase in tree and forest cover, thereby raising concerns about the efficacy of Delhi government's plantation drive. It takes 20-25 years for a sapling to become a tree and give the planet its services. But a one-time mass drive has very little survival rates for its saplings. It needs a planned and sustained program.

S.no.	Information sought	Reply	
1.	What number of plant saplings have been planted by the Delhi Government during March 2015 to September 2019	As per available records in thi office, the details is given below:-  2015-16 9.73 lakh 2016-17 12.43 lakh 2017-18 6.89 lakh 2018-19 28.95 lakh  Total 58 lakh (including shrubs & Free Distribution of saplings)	
2.	What actions and measures have been taken by the Delhi Government during March 2015 to September 2019 for the protection of Delhi Ridge.	6 (3) of RTI to all 03 Forest Division	

Arvind Kejriwal led AAP government claims to have planted fifty-eight lakh saplings in Delhi and calling it a "mass movement launched by the people of Delhi" to combat air pollution. Although Delhi's air quality has dipped to 'very poor' level at all of the locations, efforts like plantation drives will not reap benefits for decades.

Saplings, of course, is a long-range strategy and shouldn't be a replacement for short-term solutions.

Planting strategy, for example, on streets that have a lot of traffic and particulate matter, must ensure that there is enough space between trees and that there is enough air flow.

However, even for deriving any benefit from the saplings planted, and to ensure that the drive was successful, the government agencies must ensure that the saplings they plant grow up to become robust trees, even if it be after 20 years. Unfortunately, in Delhi no system has been put in place to keep a count on the survival rates. As far as forest cover is concerned, Delhi has lost about 0.2 sq. km of very dense forest and 0.9 sq km of moderately dense forest since 2015.

The afforestation strategy of the government may have an impact in the longer term, provided that the saplings that are planted during the mass drives will be watered consistently and protected to grow as trees. Apart from that, the species that comprise the distribution plants will also have significant impact on the pollution levels of Delhi in the longer run. However, none of these interventions will provide any respite in the shorter term.

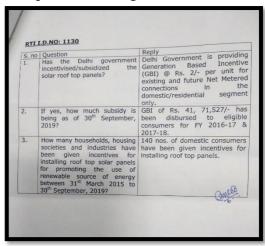
A month after the Supreme Court asked Delhi government to pay its share of Rs 1,000 crore out of Rs 3,577 crore due for the construction of Eastern and Western Peripheral

Expressways, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government refused to comply with the orders.

#### **Solar Rooftop Energy generation**

In the Election Manifesto of 2015, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) committed to provide "20% of Delhi's energy needs through Solar Energy by 2025". But, as per the RTI replies we have received, it is only New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) that has been identified for Solar City Project by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. Solar plant installation guideline follows the as per the Unified Building Bye Laws for Delhi UBBL-2016 and its modification<sup>3</sup>. Whereas in the other RTI reply the ministry answered the question in regard to the Building

Code in Energy
Conservation
and Building
Code 2018
(ECBC 2018),
which is in draft
stage and not yet
notified in Delhi.
Which indicates
that there is no
synergy among



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://ipgclppcl.gov.in/documents/renewable/2016 08 03 6 Delhi Solar Policy.pdf

the departments. Further, the RTI response also reveals that until now only 140 people have been incentivised for installing roof top panels.

#### RHETORIC VS REALITY

#### **CMO'S Hypocrisy on the RTI**

For our research, we have resorted to the RTI route for obtaining official information from the government. The Chief Minister's Office has variously sent the questions to irrelevant departments, or sent to few departments left the other departments, giving partial replies. Many of the replies filed by the government, in gross violation of the procedure, have been terminated with a simple reply that the information sought does not pertain to them. As per the laid procedure, the department should forward the request to the concerned authority. A CM who hails himself as an RTI activist, turned as the nemesis of the RTI in Delhi.

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The following snapshots illustrate the very fact how the CM's office has denied the request or has simply disposed it off without even giving a proper reply.

Registration Number	FINDP/R/2019/80020
Name	
Date of Filing	13/08/2019
Status	REQUEST DISPOSED OF as on 21/08/2019
Donly . With reference to your a	have referred DTI in this reward it is informed that the
Reply:- With reference to your a information does not pertain to	
•	bove referred RTI in this regard it is informed that the finance department.  Nodal Officer Details
•	finance department.

Registration Number	PWDEC/R/2019/80293		
Name	p		
Date of Filing	14/10/2019		
Status	REQUEST DISPOSED OF as on 08/11/2019		
Reply:-The required information does not pertain to this office.			
Your RTI application has been forwarded to	Click here to view details		
multiple CPIOs	Circk here to view details		
Your RTI application has been forwarded to	Click here to view details		
multiple Public Authory(s)	Circk here to view details		
Nodal Officer Details			
Telephone Number	01123490439		
Enter Email Id	dmpwdhqdelhi@gmail.com		

There have been several other instances where we found that there has been regular pattern of not responding to the queries within the stipulated time frame of 30 days forcing the applicant to apply for 1<sup>st</sup> appeal and so on and so forth. Consuming time and resources of the applicant.

Registration Number	GADEP/R/2019/80171	
Name		
Date of Filing	18/10/2019	
Status	REQUEST FORWARDED TO PIO as on 21/10/2019	
Details of PIO :- Telephone Number:- 23392006, Email Id:- amitabh.kundoo@gov.in		
Note :- You are advised to contact the above mentioned officer for further details.		
Nodal Officer Details		
Telephone Number	23392006	
Enter Email Id		

Registration Number	DSSSB/R/2019/80092
Name	
Date of Filing	14/10/2019
Status	REQUEST DISPOSED OF as on 08/11/2019
Reply :- 1- The information sou 2 & 3- No such information is a	ght in point no. 1 is not available in compiled form. vailable.
	Nodal Officer Details
Telephone Number	01122370237

The queries have generally been forwarded randomly to several PIOs, of whom some replied and some disposed with no information. Displaying unprofessional handling of claims and RTI queries. In the RTI response below, instead of furnishing the data, the reply directed the applicant to contact the competent authority.

In another instance, the government has conceded that it failed to create any jobs in the last 5 years. No wonder it did not have any answer when asked about the jobs it

created. Rather than compiling the data, it replied with no information.

The replies are indicative of a misleading approach and make a mockery of the applicant's right to information.

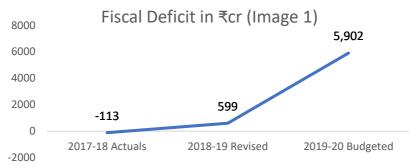
Registration Number	POWER/A/2019/60015	
Name	H A	
Date of Filing	09/11/2019	
Status	PARTIES SUMMONED FOR HEARING as on 26/11/2019, 3:15 PM First Appellate Authority Department of Power, GNCTD 8th Level, B-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002.	
Nodal Officer Details		
Telephone Number	01123392790	
Enter Email Id	sanjay.kumar43@gov.in	

There have been many queries where we have not received any reply even after 30 days of stipulated time period under the Act. Several 1st appeals have been filed and results are still awaited.

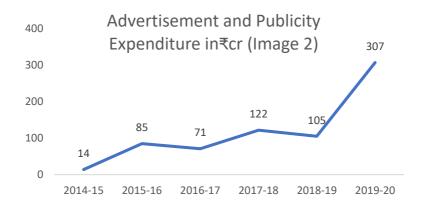
#### Delhi's misleading Budget

The Delhi Government's desperation to mislead people is most evident with just a cursory analysis of the annual Budget. The government's allocation and proposed expenditure skyrocketed this fiscal year i.e. 2019-20. One would assume that if the government plans to hike its expenditure so much, a corresponding increase in revenue may also be in order. However, this is not to be. The Fiscal Deficit of Delhi is in disarray. In just two years, the Delhi government has burdened

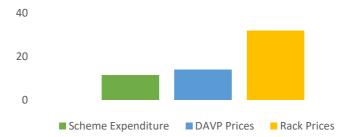
the citizenry of the Delhi with the fiscal deficit projected per Delhi citizen in 2019 rising by more than fifty-five times. It is shocking to learn that the government was so reckless as to get the State finances from a state of surplus to deficit in just two years.



On the other hand, the revenue estimates of the AAP government drastically dipped in 2016-17 and never recovered from then on. With such a gloomy situation on the revenue side,



# Comparative Analysis of Scheme spending and publicity



the Delhi government is going ahead in allocating ever increasing amount of funds to its advertising and publicity expenses at the cost of public money. In the current poll year, the Arvind Kejriwal government has tripled its expenses under this head in the budget without scant regard for the public welfare needs.

#### **Diverting public money to self-promotion:**

To give a specific instance of the perverse extent of the Kejriwal government's obsession of attention seeking and publicity, let us consider just one instance:

The image we see to the side is an advertisement regarding the "Fee Assistance" scheme run by the Delhi government.

The below news clipping shows that just 23 students from Delhi have availed this scheme in the last year. As most of the financing is done up to only ₹7.5 lakhs, let us assume an average for our argument. If we consider all 23 students got an average

of ₹5 lakh support, only ₹11.5 million has been spent in support to students.

However, if we have a rough estimate of how much the government would have spent on the publicity of this scheme through just print media, it will still be a great expense. According to the DAVP, Government of India, the government ads would cost ₹7 lakhs for a full-page advertisement in the leading national dailies. But the rack prices for the retail advertisements in leading dailies vary from 8 lakhs to 80 lakhs depending on the language and position of ad. For the purpose



Only 23 people availed education loan under Delhi govt's scheme in 2018-19: Outcome budget of our estimates, we take ₹16 lakhs as an average price for the full-page ad in terms of rack prices.

We have personally verified twenty such 27<sup>th</sup> dailies on November, where this particular ad that was shown in the image appeared. That would put it at ₹14 million. That means effectively, the Delhi government spends 61% of the scheme's purposeful expenditure on wasteful boastful such as

advertisements. This is only limited to verifiable print publicity. In addition, the Delhi government vigorously makes its publicity on hoardings, Metro Stations and other such public spaces. It will go much higher than the scheme expenditure itself.

Another such instance of disproportionate spending on publicity and advertising is with regards to local works. The Delhi government releases a host of congratulatory advertisements in the national dailies, referring to local issues such as bridges and foot-over bridges. Most of the works that were referred to in these ads are not even completed, some even at foundation stone laying stage.

The advertisement that is shown beside refers to five foot-over bridges in the vicinity of Malviya Nagar, RK Puram, & Delhi

Cantonment.

are the tender for the foot-over



Following images of documents respective bridges.

The combined estimated cost of these foot-over bridges comes down to ₹95 million. However, if one were to estimate the cost of the publicity and advertising costs that the government spent on this could be around ₹48 million in just print media. Since the advertisements refer to the inauguration ceremonies at these





Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) by the **State Government Of Delhi** for Construction Of Foot Over Bridge With Staircase And Lift For Padestrians Crossing Near Mohammadpur Village At Africa Ave... in **New Delhi** - **Delhi** has been published.

The last date of this tender is **26-04-2018**, work value is **₹ 33800504** INR, EMD is **₹ 676010** INR and tender document fees is **₹ 0 (Refer Doc)** INR

For more details call us on **+9192760 83333** for bidding this tender, vendor registration (if any) and tender BOQ documents:

Basic tender information for TRN: 13163905

Tender for Construction Of Foot Over Bridge With Staircase And Lift For Padestrians Crossing Near Mohammadpur Village At Africa Avenue Road, During 2017-18.

bridges, the publicity expenses may balloon well over 70% of the gross estimate amount of the projects themselves.

Name of Work	Construction of Foot Over Bridge with escalators for pedestrian across Station Road, Delhi Cantt.(SH-Civil Works)
Estimated Cost of Project	Rs. 9461551

Such is the tragedy that is unfolding in Delhi that the government is spending huge amounts and sometimes even more than the scheme itself on the publicity of the very scheme and government's so-called achievements. There cannot be a more appropriate example for the idiom empty vessels make more noise.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- 1. **Lack of Sincerity of Purpose:** The Delhi government has failed to rise up to the expectations of the public and has exhibited lack of sincerity of purpose in execution of their duties and fulfilling the aspirations of the residents.
- 2. **Jan Lok Pal:** Delhi government has failed to set up a Jan Lokpal, despite it being one of the fundamental aspects of their campaign. One meeting of council of ministers was held and two cabinet decisions were taken in context of Lokpal's appointment. The Delhi government has failed to share the details of the developments publicly and also refused to share information when asked through an RTI appeal.
- 3. **Drug Menace:** 90% of street children in Delhi are addicted to drugs. 46,410 cases of substance abuse among street children were registered in year 2017. The Delhi CM while campaigning in Punjab for the assembly elections in 2017, promised to make Punjab a "drug-free state" if the party was voted to power but have failed to control the menace in Delhi even after 5 years in power.
- 4. **Unauthorized Colonies:** The Delhi government did not finalize the boundaries of the unauthorized colonies and kept on seeking extension after extension. Once again, a further extension of two years was sought as they submitted that the delineation cannot be completed till December 2021. Sensing the lack of sincerity of Delhi government, the central government approved the "National Capital"

- Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorized Colonies) Bill, 2019", bringing respite to Delhi residents after decades of apathy.
- 5. No efforts to curb pollution: Zero vacuum vehicles were pressed into service in the past five years, only 140 people have been incentivised for installing roof top panels. The claim of 25% reduction in air pollution stands unravelled with the fact that PM 2.5 levels increased as compared to last year.
- 6. **CMO'S Hypocrisy on the RTI:** Delhi's RTI infrastructure is in shambles and makes mockery of a common man's right to information. The Chief Minister's Office has sent the questions to irrelevant departments, or sent to few departments left the other departments, giving partial replies. Many of the replies filed by the government, in gross violation of the procedure, have been terminated. There have been many queries where we have not received any reply even after 30 days of stipulated time period under the Act. Several 1st appeals have been filed and results are still awaited.
- 7. **Misleading budget:** In just a year and a half, the Delhi government has burdened the citizenry of the Delhi with the public debt per Delhi citizen in 2019 rising by more than eighty times. the revenue that flowed into the consolidated fund at the beginning of the AAP government drastically dipped in 2016-17 and never recovered from then on.
- 8. **Diverting public money to self-promotion:** That means effectively, the Delhi government spends 61% of the scheme's purposeful expenditure on wasteful boastful such as advertisements.

It is unfortunate that the government has chosen to turn a blind eye to aspirations of a common man. The report finds glaring drawbacks in key sectors and especially those where the Delhi government has been claiming to have brought about a transformative impact. These are infact, in a state of crisis. For instance, the fact that no ventilator bed has been added in any of the 33 Delhi government hospitals despite the High Court direction of February 13, 2019. The High Court has ordered the Directorate of Health Services to procure 63 ventilators, only 23 students have been provided loans for higher education as per their outcome budget. Such facts only throw light on a scenario where the government appears wanting when it comes to integrity and accountability towards its people. In the subsequent reports on key sectors, issues will be dealt with in detail to bring the facts to light and make the people aware and enable them to take the right course of action.

## **Public Policy Research Centre**

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