

HIGHLIGHTS 100-DAY ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Govt to bring ordinance to curb arbitrary hike in school fees: Min

AIMAN FATIMA

NEW DELHI: Marking the completion of 100 days in office under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi Education minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday announced that the government will bring an ordinance to implement the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025. The move aims to curb arbitrary fee hikes by private schools, a longstanding issue that has triggered repeated protests from parents.

The Bill, originally scheduled to be tabled in the Delhi Assembly during the May 14-15 session, could not be introduced. "We will introduce the Delhi School Education Transparency Bill, which could not be tabled in the last Assembly session... we are bringing an ordinance to turn it into law to end the exploitation by schools," Sood said. He added, "This has greatly upset those who have supported the school mafia for the past 27 years."

Citing media reports and parent protests, particularly against Delhi Public School (DPS) Dwarka, Sood claimed the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government failed to act. "The issue of fee hikes is not new. These protests have been happening since 2021, even earlier, and yet the previous AAP government did nothing," he said. Sood accused former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former education minister Manish Sisodia of "hiding in Punjab" during the crisis. "Arvind Kejriwal was busy building the



Minister Ashish Sood during a press conference

'sheesh mahal' and now the AAP is blaming our CM Rekha Gupta-led government," he said.

He asserted that in the current government's 100-day tenure, "not a single school increased its fees." Sood also highlighted the government's intervention through District Magistrate-level committees that led to court orders on the issue. "We are the ones who sent the DM committee to schools. It is because of our report that the high court issued stringent orders," he said.

Meanwhile, parents under the United Parents Voice (UPV) met Leader of Opposition Atishi to express concerns over the ordinance. They alleged harassment and discrimination by schools and criticised the government for not consulting parents before drafting the bill.

One of the major achievements underlined by Sood was the release of pending grant-in-aid to Delhi University col-

leges. "Delhi government has released Rs 275 crore as the first instalment of funding to 12 fully state-funded Delhi University colleges, ensuring timely salaries and operational support," he said. He accused the previous AAP government of neglecting these institutions, saying, "The previous government did not release grants to DU where students from middle-class families study. But we released the money on April 1"

In the higher education sector, the government disbursed Rs 19 crore in scholarships to over 1,300 students from low-income families, scholarships that had been pending since 2022. Additionally, under the CM Digital Education Scheme, 1,200 laptops have been distributed to students scoring above 90 percent.

In school education, Sood announced the launch of free online coaching for NEET and CUET-UG in partnership

KEY POINTS

- » He also announced that 75 new 'CM Shri Schools' would be built with an allocation of Rs 100 crore
- » On urban development, Minister Sood asserted that 'no slum will be demolished in Delhi'
- » On law and order, forensic investigation has been made mandatory in all serious crimes

with MSTC, Physics Wallah, and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Over 23,000 students from Delhi government schools have enrolled, 3,458 for NEET and 19,756 for CUET. "This step is meant for those students who cannot afford expensive coaching," Sood said.

He also announced that 75 new 'CM Shri Schools' would be built with an allocation of Rs 100 crore. These schools will include smart classrooms, AR/VR labs, AI-based learning, and courses in data science and robotics. "From digital libraries to AI-enabled smart classrooms, we are investing in students from every background, ensuring no child is left behind," he added.

The government also digitised 250 school libraries and is setting up 100 AI-enabled language labs to teach English, French, German, and Spanish. For EWS (Economically Weaker Section) students, Sood said the

process had been made fully transparent. "This year, with the push of a button, 28,000 children received EWS admission letters. Soon, 38,000 children will get final admissions," he said.

School uniform subsidies have also been increased, from Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,250 for nursery to Class 5, from Rs 1,400 to Rs 1,500 for Classes 6 to 8, and from Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,700 for Classes 9 to 12.

On urban development, Sood asserted that "no slum will be demolished in Delhi." The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has been allocated Rs 700 crore to improve conditions in slum areas. "2,500 homes built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which were left unoccupied due to political reasons, are now being restored and made livable with a budget of Rs 43 crore," he said. Regarding the Madarasi Camp relocation issue pending in court, he said 215 out of 370 families have already been resettled.

In the power sector, the number of power cuts over 30 minutes dropped to 1,946 between February and May, according to Sood. He also announced that rooftop solar subsidies under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana had been raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 30,000. On law and order, forensic investigation has been made mandatory in all serious crimes. Mobile forensic labs are being introduced, and 100 new fire tenders are being added to improve emergency services in dense localities.

Sisodia, Jain summoned over Rs 2,000 crore scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi ministers and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain have been summoned by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) in connection with a massive classroom construction scandal involving alleged financial irregularities worth Rs 2,000 crore.

Jain has been asked to appear before the agency on June 6, while Sisodia is scheduled for questioning on June 9, officials confirmed. The summons relate to an investigation into the construction of over 12,700 semi-permanent classrooms in Delhi government schools during the previous AAP administration. Authorities allege the project was plagued by inflated contracts, procedural lapses, and a lack of financial accountability.

According to Joint Commissioner of Police and ACB chief Madhur Verma, "Our investigation revealed that the average cost of constructing each classroom was Rs.24.86 lakh, nearly five times the standard cost. In many cases, semi-permanent structures were priced on par with permanent RCC buildings, yet no justification for this was provided."

The FIR registered on April 30 also cites violations of procurement norms, absence of fresh tenders, and appointment of consultants without due process.

"Out of the total escalated cost of Rs.2,892 crore, nearly Rs.205 crore was added due to vague 'richer specifications'. A critical report from the Chief Technical Examiner of the CVC that flagged these discrepancies was allegedly concealed for three years," Verma added.

The investigation, triggered by a 2019 complaint filed by BJP leaders including Kapil Mishra and Harish Khurana, is now backed by an FIR under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code dealing with criminal breach of trust and conspiracy.

Reacting to the developments, AAP issued a sharp rebuttal, accusing the BJP of orchestrating a smear campaign. "This is not a scam, it's a politically motivated attack. The BJP is weaponising institutions to silence opposition," the party said in a statement.



Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari, Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta review the progress of the ongoing National Highway projects in Delhi

CM: NHAI projects worth Rs 35,000 cr ongoing in Capital

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday held a high-level meeting with Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to assess the progress of key infrastructure projects being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in the national Capital.

The meeting focused on streamlining coordination among agencies, accelerating construction timelines, and ensuring seamless delivery of major projects aimed at easing Delhi's traffic congestion.

Speaking after the review, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta highlighted the benefits of Centre-state coordination under the current political alignment. "The double-engine government is benefitting the people of Delhi," she said, referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being in power both in Delhi and at the Centre.

Gupta noted that projects worth Rs 35,000 crore are currently underway in the city under the NHA's purview. "Work to build a 7-kilometre underground tunnel from Shiv Murti to Nelson Mandela Road is underway. Work on the construction of an elevated road from INA to the Indira Gandhi International Airport is going on," she said.

The Chief Minister also announced a significant step toward integrated urban planning, stating that NHAI has now taken charge of building drainage systems around its roads. "This will eliminate issues that arise due to multiple agencies. The PWD will help them," Gupta added, signalling enhanced inter-agency

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday held a high-level meeting with Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta
- » Work to build a 7-kilometre underground tunnel from Shiv Murti to Nelson Mandela Road is underway. Work on the construction of an elevated road from INA to the Indira Gandhi International Airport is going on, says CM
- » 'Projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore have been carried out for Delhi and I am thankful to the Centre for that'

collaboration.

In a move expected to ease bottlenecks in key transit zones, Gupta shared that NHAI has sanctioned new infrastructure worth Rs150 crore for the capital. "The NHAI has approved road overbridge (RoB) and road underbridge (RuB) projects worth Rs 150 crore for Delhi," she said.

Thanking the central government, the Chief Minister remarked, "Projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore have been carried out for Delhi and I am thankful to the Centre for that."

The meeting comes at a time when Delhi is grappling with rising vehicular traffic, and these projects are expected to significantly improve mobility and road safety across the national Capital.

DDA RESUMES walk-in hearings

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has resumed "walk-in public hearings" effective immediately, allowing citizens to meet senior officials without prior online appointments.

Aimed at enhancing public convenience and accessibility, the move especially benefits individuals facing digital access challenges. Hearings will be held on Mondays and Thursdays.

Deputy Directors and Directors will be available from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, while Commissioners and above will meet visitors from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Visitors must carry a valid government ID and cooperate with security personnel for smooth entry and exit.

Over 200 inhabitants of Madras Camp slum resettled, says Sood

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi Urban Development minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday said that 215 eligible inhabitants of the Madras Camp have been resettled by the government.

The slum settlement was removed on Sunday in an anti-encroachment drive by the authorities on a Delhi High Court order.

The slum encroached on the Barapullah drain, leading to flooding in south Delhi areas during the Monsoon, the minister said. Sood, citing a high court order in a press conference, said that the area where the Madras Camp slum was located had to be cleared to prevent urban flooding.

The crisis escalated due to "mismanagement" of the previous AAP government, which could have ensured dignified relocation of slum residents but failed, the minister charged in a

The minister said the Delhi govt has for the first time allocated Rs 700 cr to the DUSIB, especially for uplifting slum settlements

statement. "In contrast, the current government relocated eligible residents respectfully under the urban flooding project. Of the 370 families in Madras Camp, 215 were found eligible and were duly resettled," he stated.

Sood reiterated Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's claim that no slum would be demolished in Delhi before ensuring permanent houses for the inhabitants. He said one of the first actions taken by the BJP government after assuming power in Delhi was to revive 2,500 houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

These housing units were not allocated for the resettlement of slum dwellers, as the AAP government wanted to

rename the scheme after its chief minister, Sood said.

"These houses remained unoccupied for years, depriving the poor of shelter. Now, with an investment of Rs 43 crore, these houses are being made livable again. Under the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), this initiative will bring significant relief to the urban poor," he said.

The minister said the Delhi government has for the first time allocated Rs 700 crore to the DUSIB, especially for uplifting slum settlements.

The fund will be used to build civic infrastructure like roads, water, electricity, toilets, and women's bathing spaces in every slum, he said.

MCD, IIT Delhi hold workshop

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in collaboration with IIT Delhi, organised a workshop titled "Empowering Delhi for Greener Future" to promote effective solid waste management practices. The event was held at IIT Delhi and brought together scientists, civic officials, resident welfare associations, students, and environmental experts.

The workshop focused on promoting sustainable waste practices, community engagement, and institutional reforms. Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, who attended the event, said the BJP-led MCD is committed to making the city clean, green, and beautiful. "We are fully dedicated to providing smooth and better civic amenities," he said.

During the event, the MCD launched a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for 'zero waste and plastic-free' institutions and a monthly newsletter to support ongoing awareness efforts.

City Briefs

WOMAN, 22, WITH PULMONARY TB, DIES AFTER COVID INFECTION

NEW DELHI: A 22-year-old woman suffering from bilateral respiratory tract infection and pulmonary tuberculosis succumbed after testing positive for COVID-19 - the fifth fatality due to the infection in the national Capital this year, according to the Union Health Ministry. Delhi has seen an uptick in coronavirus infections, with 457 active cases at present. The woman had a history of pulmonary tuberculosis, bilateral lower respiratory tract infection, COVID pneumonia, and Type 1 Respiratory failure, according to the ministry. The government website did not say whether the woman was a city resident or was admitted to any health facility here.

NO OBJECTION IF KEJRIWAL'S PASSPORT RENEWED FOR 10 YEARS: DELHI COURT

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday said it had "no objection" if the passport of former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, an accused in the Delhi excise policy cases, was renewed for 10 years.

NDMC ISSUES PROPERTY TAX BILLS FOR 2025-26; OFFERS 10% REBATE FOR...

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi Municipal Council has issued property tax bills for the financial year 2025-26, announced Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal. Taxpayers who pay their dues by June 30, will receive a 10 per cent rebate, while those paying by September 30 can avail a 5 per cent rebate, as stated in its release.

SC junks Delhi Waqf Board's plea claiming rights on property

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea by the Delhi Waqf Board, which claimed that a property in Shahdara area in the capital was a "waqf property" and said a Gurudwara was functioning there since long.

"There is a Gurudwara, let it be. Even if there is any claim, you should relinquish that claim saying a Gurudwara is already there," a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma told the counsel appearing for the Delhi Waqf Board.

The apex court was hearing the board's plea challenging a September 2010 order of the Delhi High Court, which dismissed its suit for possession of the property. The suit alleged that the property in question was a waqf property, being used as a waqf since time immemorial. The apex court, however, said, "There is a Gurudwara functioning out there."

The waqf board counsel referred to the findings of the trial judge in the matter and said a mosque existed there. AGENCIES

BACKS HERITAGE PROJECT

Union Min Shekhawat to visit Delhi Assembly

SURUCHI KUMARI

NEW DELHI: In regards to Delhi Legislative Assembly's heritage development plans, Union Minister of Tourism and Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has assured full support to Speaker Vijender Gupta for transforming the Assembly into a Living Heritage site of national eminence.

During a meeting held, Gupta sought the Ministry's cooperation and guidance in preserving and enhancing the historical and cultural legacy of the Assembly building. Emphasising the importance of the site as a symbol of India's legislative heritage, he highlighted the Assembly Secretariat's ongoing efforts to promote its historical significance. In response, Shekhawat pledged all possible assistance and announced plans to personally visit the Delhi Assembly soon, accompanied by senior officials from his ministry. The visit will include a review of ongoing developmental work and discussions on the comprehensive project report being prepared

The visit will include a review of ongoing developmental work and discussions on the comprehensive project report being prepared for the heritage initiative

for the heritage initiative.

The proposal gained momentum following recent high-level meetings, including one on May 20, 2025, where Ministry officials assured technical and financial support under existing schemes. Further progress was noted during a follow-up meeting between the Secretaries of the Ministry of Culture and the Delhi Assembly on May 23. Gupta expressed gratitude for the Ministry's proactive involvement and urged continued cooperation to finalise the project details. He reiterated his vision of the Delhi Assembly becoming a tourism and cultural hub, reflecting its national significance.

vedanta  
transforming for good

HINDUSTAN ZINC  
Zinc & Silver of India

**Powering Tomorrow's Green - with Zinc and Silver**

- Ranked the world's most sustainable metals & mining company for 2 years\*
- 2.41X water positive
- 0.67 million tCO2e GHG emission savings in FY25
- Nearly 5 lakh lives benefitted through environment and safety initiatives

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

Yashad Bhawan, Udaipur - 313 004, Rajasthan, INDIA | www.hindia.com | CIN L27204RJ1966PLC001208

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hindustanzinc/> <https://www.facebook.com/HindustanZinc/> [https://twitter.com/Hindustan\\_Zinc](https://twitter.com/Hindustan_Zinc) [https://www.instagram.com/hindustan\\_zinc/](https://www.instagram.com/hindustan_zinc/)

\*As per S&P Global CSA 2024