

# It's official: Cars to get costlier in Capital

**FEE HIKE** Standing committee of north civic body clears steep rise in one-time parking fee for cars, exempts 2-wheelers



Corporation officials say the move will help unclog the city by curbing the population of vehicles and vehicular pollution.

Mohit Sharma  
mohit.sharma2@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Wednesday approved a steep hike in the one-time parking fee, a move that will make cars expensive in Delhi.

The standing committee, the highest decision-making body of the civic body, however, did not approve a similar hike for auto-rickshaws, taxis, two-wheelers and e-rickshaws.

The resolution now awaits a final approval from the House of the North civic body before it is finally implemented. The matter will come up in the House in the end of this month.

Once approved, the move may be replicated by the south Delhi and east Delhi civic bodies too, sources said.

"The rise is essential to unclog the city's gridlocked streets and curb pollution. The hike will act as deterrent and help reduce the rate at which vehicular population and pollution is rising in the city," said Mohan Bharadwaj, standing committee chairman.

When implemented, the parking fee will raise prices of cars by at least ₹8,000. The cost of high-end cars will go up by sev-

## HOW IT WILL PINCH YOUR POCKET

The parking charge will be in the range of 2-15% of the vehicle cost

Type	Existing rates (in ₹)		Proposed slabs	
	Vehicle Price	Charges	Vehicle Price	Charges in % (lowest fee)
Cars Non-commercial four wheelers	Up to ₹4 lakh	₹2,000	Up to ₹4 lakh	Fixed 8,000
	Above ₹4 lakh	₹4,000	₹4-6 lakh	4% (₹16,000)
			₹8-12 lakh	6% (₹48,000)
			₹12-20 lakh	8% (₹96,000)
			₹20-40 lakh	10% (₹2 lakh)
			₹40 lakh+	15% (₹6 lakh)



SOURCE: NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

eral lakhs (See box). It will also lead to an increase in the annual registration fee of commercial vehicles from the current ceiling of ₹4,000 to about ₹40,000.

"The municipal corporation has the authority to determine the rates of from time to time. The rates were revised last in 2004," said a senior official.

### POLITICAL REASONS

In order to cushion any public outcry in view of the next civic polls, the political leaders of the north body said the Arvind Kejriwal government forced them to take the "tough" decision. "We had to resort to such measures due to the financial

duress since the Arvind Kejriwal government has delayed releasing our funds," said Bharadwaj.

The government, however, said the hike was avoidable. "There are various ways to increase revenue such as bringing more people under property tax net and ramping up ad revenues. But for the corrupt corporation officials, it would have meant a cut in their 'personal revenue'," said Delhi government official.

The opposition Congress criticised the hike. "Buying a car will now be out of reach of a common man, courtesy the BJP," said Mukesh Goyal, leader of opposition, north civic body.

## 'JNU IS HOME TO NATION BUILDERS NOT ANTI-NATIONALS'

HT Correspondent and PTI  
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice-chancellor on Wednesday condemned the comment made in an RSS-affiliated magazine that the University was home to anti-national elements and said that it was an attempt to malign the image of the institution.

"The comments by the RSS are really in bad taste. We have contributed considerably to nation building. From MPs to cabinet secretaries to ambassadors, JNU has been home to intellectuals and not anti-nationals," JNU vice-chancellor SK Sopory said.

'Panchjanya', believed to be RSS mouthpiece, recently alleged that JNU is home to 'a huge anti-national block' with an aim of 'disintegrating India'. The comments kicked up a storm on Tuesday with the students' union condemning it as highly-regressive and the Congress saying the university should sue the magazine.

Sopory said that the students and researchers at the university may be anti-establishment but maintained there was nothing wrong in it. "The researchers and students here might be anti-establishment and there is nothing wrong about it but there is definitely no encouragement to any anti-national activity here. The RSS' comment is just an attempt to malign the varsity's image," he said.

Alleging that pro-Naxal students' unions of JNU had openly celebrated the killing of 75 CRPF personnel in the 2010 ambush in Dantewada, the RSS magazine, in its cover article, alleged that 'JNU routinely hosts anti-national activities.'

"We condemn the highly regressive comments by RSS made against JNU students. JNU's composition reflects the character of our society as women and students from marginalised sections and backward areas are duly represented which is against the way RSS imagines Indian society," JNUSU said in a statement.

# Delhi Police 'raid' on Kerala House illegal, says govt probe report

HT Correspondent  
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Police violated the law when they went to raid Kerala House to investigate if beef was being served there, a Delhi government-instituted probe into the incident has said.

Divisional commissioner A Anbarasu submitted his probe report on the raid to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday.

The report said as per provisions of the Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act (DACP), 1994 and rules framed under it, the police have no authority to "enter, enquire and search the alleged presence and sale of cow meat in the canteen."

"Only the director of the animal husbandry department and veterinary officers are competent to enter any premises and to search and seize the place where they have reasons to believe that an offence has been committed or likely to be committed," the report said.

Sources said the chief minister's office is likely to forward the report to the Centre as well as the Kerala government.

The report said the entry of the Delhi Police team in the Kerala House canteen on October 26 "cannot be construed as a visit for enforcement of law and order and they had visited there with the sole purpose of investigation into the complaint".



Members of Parliament from Kerala had protested against police action at the state house.

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In its report, the team has concluded that though it was amply clear to the police team during the first visit to the canteen that no beef was served, "it made a second visit after a gap of 15-20 minutes which the inquiry report termed absolutely unethical".

The police had maintained that a team had visited the canteen after receiving a call

that 'beef' was being served at the canteen. Later, police arrested Hindu Sena chief Vishnu Gupta for allegedly making a false complaint that the canteen served "beef".

The 'raid' had come under sharp criticism from the opposition parties. The Kerala government took up the matter with the Union home ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. The Kerala government had even threatened legal action if the Centre does not admit that the "raid" by police at the state-run guest house was a "mistake".

The Kerala House had also decided to discontinue buffalo meat after the Delhi Police visit that came amid a raging nation-wide debate on beef ban and growing incidents of intolerance. During questioning by the police at the building gate, the guest house and canteen staff had said that all meat was sourced from slaughter houses authorised by the Delhi government. Cow meat is banned in the entire Delhi-NCR region.

# Govt gets land in 95 villages in big push for pooling policy

Vishal Kant  
vishal.kant@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The much-awaited land pooling policy — touted as the future of organised housing sector in the city — will soon see the light of the day.

Lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung has allowed transfer of ownership of the gram sabha land in 95 villages, identified for implementing land pooling policy across the city, to the Delhi government's revenue department.

An order was issued by Som Naidu, director-cum-joint secretary (Panchayat), on October 29. A day later, the revenue department also issued a circular about the changed ownership to all officers concerned, including the six district magistrates under whose jurisdiction the 95 revenue villages are located.

The Delhi government had demanded the L-G office for en-block allotment of gram sabha

## AWAITING NOTIFICATION FROM THE STATE GOVT, THE LAND POOLING POLICY WAS IN A LIMBO AFTER BEING CLEARED IN SEPTEMBER 2013

land before it can notify the 95 villages, identified for land pooling, as 'urbanized' — thus declaring these villages as development areas in order to allow development of commercial, residential and community infrastructure.

The Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) plan to execute the land pooling policy has been in a limbo ever since the policy was cleared by the Centre in September 2013, awaiting notification from the state government. "The decision has removed the biggest bottleneck in the process. We can expect a decision on it soon," a senior revenue department official said.

ment official said.

The DDA, which comes under the central government's urban development ministry, is the sole land-owning agency in the capital and the L-G has the final authority on its policy matters. Sources said the state feared that it may lose its right over gram sabha land after declaring the villages as urbanised.

The ruling dispensation was of the view that it would become tough for the state to undertake future projects if it lets go of the ownership of the gram sabha land and it would become even more dependent on DDA for land, sources said. The AAP government is already locked in a war of words with DDA over allotment of land at 'market rate'.

Officials said with the gram sabha land being vested with the revenue department, other agencies of the government could now seek allotment of gram sabha land from the revenue department.

# Land allotted to BJP for office not ours, says DDA

**NEW DELHI:** The land allotted to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for constructing its office does not belong to the DDA, the city's land owning agency said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Delhi's deputy CM Manish Sisodia accused L-G Najeeb Jung of allotting the land near ITO, which was earmarked for a school, to the BJP to construct an office.

Responding to the allegation, the DDA said, "The land does not belong to DDA and has not been allotted by DDA. The site belonged to Land and Development Office (L&DO)," the authority said in a statement.

"The L&DO had already allotted the land to BJP on November 27, 2014 and the site was handed over by L&DO to them on December 5, 2014. The land falls under the local jurisdiction of North Delhi Municipal Corporation," the DDA said.

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**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

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