

DEENANATH
RAJPUT AWARDED
SECOND ROHINI
NAYYAR PRIZE

Saptarshi Das

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NEW DELHI: Social activist Deenanath Rajput on Tuesday was conferred the second Rohini Nayar Prize for his contribution to people of Chhattisgarh, and for starting the Bhumgadi farmer producer organisation (FPO), which works with tribal men and women to encourage them to farm and sell their produce.

The Rohini Nayar Prize is awarded for outstanding contribution to rural development, whether in civil society, government, enterprise or academia, in the memory of economist Rohini Nayar. The age for the eligibility of this award is under 40 years. The prize includes a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, along with a trophy and a citation.

On Tuesday, Finance Commission chairperson NK Singh, the chief guest of the event, conferring the award to Rajput.

"I thank all of the women and many more who helped me every day. I also thank the Rohini Nayar foundation for believing that I am eligible of this award," the activist said.

Rajput left an engineering job in Bengaluru to form the FPO to assist his community in 2018, starting with 337 tribal women, with the aim to help them sell and market their produce. The engineer-turned-social worker said he taught members of the community efficient farming methods, how to use adequate amounts of fertiliser, understand the weather, and made them abreast with government schemes for farmers.

MCD clears 54 proposals amid chaos during meet

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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) house of councillors witnessed scenes of pandemonium on Tuesday, as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members objected to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party introducing a large number of policy proposals directly in the House, bypassing the yet-to-be-formed standing committee — an all-powerful panel that controls MCD's purse strings and ratifies the agenda for discussion in the house.

Even as BJP members tore policy papers and tossed them in the well of the house, around 54 proposals were passed by the AAP, with three postponed for further consideration, and one policy rejected, civic officials aware of the proceedings said.

Among the matters cleared were a new meat shop and meat processing plant policy, the framing of draft bylaws for plastic waste, and a new policy governing cloud or satellite kitchens. Other policies that were passed included health department proposals to outsource several health care facilities, administrative approvals to hire companies to biomine a cumulative 5 million tonne of legacy waste at the Okhla and Ghazipur landfills, and the extension of the contract of the private concessionaire that has been hired to collect garbage from the Central zone of the civic body.

The standing committee takes up five types of policy matters — layout plans, audit reports, decisions with financial bearings above ₹5 crore, rate and contracts (appointing an agency and fixing contract rates), and new policies which have financial implications.

The formation of the 18-member standing committee has remained in limbo due to contention over the appointment of 10 aldermen (nominated councillors). The aldermen were appointed by lieutenant governor VK Saxena on January 3, a decision that the AAP challenged in the Supreme Court, where the matter is currently pending.

A senior MCD official said that before the 58 proposals were tabled in the house on Tuesday,



Mayor Shelly Oberoi addresses the House amid protests at the MCD Civic Centre. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

Key matters approved amid ruckus

- Community reading rooms, libraries to open in unutilised municipal spaces
- Hike in subsidy for school uniform, which will now cost ₹1,100, sending municipal teachers abroad for training
- Biomining of 20LT legacy waste at Okhla landfill, 30LT at Ghazipur
- New policy for cloud kitchens with fixed licence fee
- 5,000 sanitation workers regularised, 3,100 domestic breeding checkers promoted
- Tekhand waste-to-energy plant capacity to be increased by 1000 tonne
- Draft plastic waste mgt rules focusing on reducing plastic waste, segregation at source and their disposal
- Uniform meat shop policy fixing the distance from religious places
- Contract for central zone waste mgt in 25 wards extended
- Rural wards notified



October 25: 147 projects were stuck as the MCD Standing Committee is yet to be constituted

the legal opinion of the civic body's chief law officer was taken, and out of the five categories of proposals which were stuck due to the lack of a standing committee, only one category where the panel had an advisory role — was moved to the House.

Meanwhile, an MCD spokesperson said that all the proposals were put before the House in accordance with the law, after taking legal opinions.

The House meeting, which was due to start at 11am, started 27 minutes late, and the entire proceedings were wrapped up within 10 minutes, with condole resolutions and incident reports being tabled.

No discussions were held on any of the policy proposals, even as members of the opposition raised slogans — the Congress accused the MCD of fudging den-

guage data, and the BJP objected to proposals related to the standing committee being brought directly in the house.

Leader of the opposition and BJP leader Raja Iqbal Singh said many of these proposals fall under the purview of the standing committee, and senior municipal officials as well as AAP functionaries will be "apprehended" by law enforcing agencies. "The Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act is being violated openly and the standing committee's power cannot be usurped like this," Singh said as the decisions were cleared.

At a press conference after the conclusion of the house meeting, the BJP said that proposals amounting to more than ₹1,500 crore have been cleared "illegally, in violation of the DMC Act", which, they claimed, was in

"connivance of the AAP administration and municipal officials". However, mayor Shelly Oberoi insisted that the policies were cleared in accordance with the law.

Speaking at a press briefing, Oberoi said the proposals cleared will improve the lives of Delhi residents and MCD employees, and said that it was unfortunate that the opposition created a ruckus, due to which no discussion could be held.

Oberoi added, "Whenever the standing committee is formed, we can put an agenda before the panel. We will follow the DMC Act... As soon as the Supreme Court order (on aldermen) comes, we will form ward committees and the standing committee. I appeal to the Supreme Court to announce the pending verdict on aldermen."

CIVIC BODY NOD TO NEW POLICY FOR CLOUD KITCHENS IN CITY

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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Tuesday approved a new policy for the regulation of independent food outlets, colloquially called cloud or satellite kitchens, which were thus far covered under the broad category of eating houses.

According to the new policy, all cloud kitchens will be issued operating licences for three years, with a registration fee of ₹20,000 and annual licence fee of ₹500 per sqm.

The policy says that the minimum floor areas for such outlets will be 9 sqm, and the premises must be well ventilated, with a minimum height of 3m. In case the cloud kitchen is sealed for violations, the de-sealing fee will be three times the annual licencing fee, the policy says.

A senior MCD official from the public health department said the Delhi government's industries departments had issued a white paper on a Delhi policy for independent food outlets, which covers terms like cloud kitchen, ghost, dark, base, and satellite kitchens, and the industries minister had chaired a meeting on July 20 to finalise the policy for such outlets.

In August, MCD was asked to prepare a policy to create a separate category for these units for grant of the health trade licence. MCD is authorised to issue health trade licences to such establishments under the chapter 20 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act.

"Out of the 26 technical conditions specified for eating houses or catering establishments, rest of the features can be applied to this new category, but the only difference is that no food can be served to the customers outside or inside the establishment. The sale of food on the site is prohibited," the official quoted above said.

Last year, the then deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had announced in Delhi's annual budget that the government plans to promote incentives for the operation of cloud kitchens under the initiatives to promote the food industry in the city and generate employment.

Tributes for Indira



Congress leader Sonia Gandhi pays tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her 38th death anniversary, at Shakti Sthal, in Delhi on Tuesday. PHOTO/INCINDIA

CM hails move to regularise workers

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Tuesday cleared a proposal regarding the regularisation of around 5,000 sanitation workers of the erstwhile East MCD — a move that was hailed by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Today, Aam Aadmi Party has passed the proposal to regularise 5000 sanitation workers in MCD. We fulfilled what we promised. Many congratulations to all the sanitation workers and their families for this wonderful gift received on Diwali. Serve the people of Delhi wholeheartedly, together we will make Delhi a clean and beautiful city," Kejriwal wrote in a post on X.

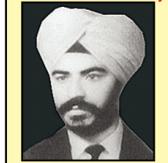
Mayor Shelly Oberoi said the MCD house took the decision keeping in mind the welfare of municipal employees. "We had promised the sanitation workers that their services will be regularised. We have regularised around 5,000 sanitation workers," she said.

Oberoi said that around 3,100 domestic breeding checkers (field workers in anti-mosquito operations) have been promoted to the post of multi-task staff (MTS). "MCD workers have been fighting for their rights from several years. They sat on strikes, ran from pillar to post and we have fulfilled their demands," she said.

Leader of the opposition Raja Iqbal Singh, meanwhile, accused the AAP of trying to mislead the people, adding that these workers had been regularised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) administration in 2013.

"They (AAP) have provided seniority levels of the year 2004 to these workers, and brought them at par with North and South MCD. East MCD was not able to provide these seniority levels due to acute fund crunch. This has been just done to maintain the parity between the workers of South, North and East MCDs. There is still no clarity from where the additional Rs600 crore of arrears will come from," he said.

39th Death Anniversary



SHAHEED HARBANS SINGH JEE
You always remain in our heart.

Nirmal Kaur, Bhupinder & Karamjeet, Harleen & Jasdeep, Arjun & Chahat, Pradeep & Rammeet, Asees & Ashnoor, Savinder & Gurpreet, Sirjan & Sehej
New Delhi Medicos-RML Hosp., Ganga Ram Road, Pusa Road & Old and New Rajinder Nagar # 9810123218

HT Homage

॥ श्रीगणेशाय नमो ॥
॥ अन्नो विजयो जेता वियोनिः पुनर्वसु ॥



Late Shri Dulichand Jain
4 November 1932 - 1 November 2003

Remembering You...

WHILE CARING FOR CHILDREN SHUNNED BY THEIR PARENTS;
AND PARENTS SHUNNED BY THEIR CHILDREN.

* While we are remembering you and observing 20th year of your passing away; Papa, just to inform you, on 22nd October 2023 our dearest Mummy after a peaceful death left for higher heaven leaving all of us in deep shock. But overcoming the pain of the truth of life gracefully, we are reaffirming our faith on what you and Maa had taught us. We are dedicating ourselves to live for the causes that were dear to both of your hearts: helping the poor and the helpless and creating more smiles in the society.

You have been our guiding light from day one, and we keep walking on those paths you showed. Family and business apart, our sincere efforts are designed to bring smiles to the society. The way you always wished. In the process, we keep adding values and transforming lives. More and more. Everyday.

Today, our old age home **Ghauronda** is a symbol of best home away from home. All our residents around 50, are living happily after being abandoned by their children. Most of them are in their eighties and nineties. Wishing them longer life and more happiness, we are busy giving them best of personal care, so that they live happily as our own family members.

Our school for the poor and our school for the blind; both are offering free, meaningful education and life-care. Our free medi care centre is busy helping the sick and helpless recover and live a healthy life.

Our commitment to the purpose you implanted in our mind continues. And our dedication to spread smiles serving the poor, needy and the helpless is increasing.

All that we do without taking any grant or donation from any person or institution. And we will never stop trying to create more and more smiles everyday. All this, because, we consistently work on following your foot steps reaching destinations while creating many milestones. Everyday.

Always remembering you papa!

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Contact: Rakesh Jain (Managing Trustee), Mobile: 9810187656.

PARAS FREE FOOD VAN

SC NOTICE TO GOVT ON HIGH REFUSAL RATE FOR RELEASE OF LIFE CONVICTS

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought an explanation from the Delhi government over the unusually high rate of rejection of premature release petitions filed by convicts serving life terms, after the court was informed that duality of administration exists in the Capital, where premature release is recommended by the sentence reviewing board under the Delhi government, and approval comes from the lieutenant governor.

A bench headed by justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said, "In view of the duality of administrative structure in Delhi, the amicus curiae submits that the sentence reviewing board is with the local state government and the approval is by the LG." The court was dealing with a report submitted by advocate Gaurav Agarwal, assisting the court as amicus curiae in a suo motu petition dealing with various steps to ease the release of prisoners languishing in jails for a long duration. The report presented "tentative" figures for the past three years, as provided by Tihar jail, indicating that the sentence reviewing board met four times in 2020, thrice in 2021, twice in 2022, and once this year so far.

In 2020, of the 607 cases of premature release placed before the board, 129 proposals went through, 474 were rejected, and the remaining deferred. In 2021, 379 cases came before the board, of which 66 got positive recommendations, while 313 were rejected. Only 89 cases were considered in 2022, of which 41 were rejected while 39 got cleared.

In the present year, the board met on June 30 and decided the fate of 247 life convicts for premature release. The final decision on it is still awaited, Agarwal stated in his report. "We call upon the Delhi government to place a clear picture in two weeks, more so as we find a large number of rejected cases," the bench said. It also asked the government to specify the category of crimes where such rejection has taken place, and asked the chief secretary to ensure there is representation from the government on December 12, the next date of hearing.

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Mayank Austen Soofi



Portrait of a reader

A man's passion for books

{ PRIVATE CAPITAL } This sight, so rare. A citizen not holding the customary mobile, but a book.

Monu is reading, while awaiting his rickshaw's next customer. So it had seemed a moment back. He is actually recovering from a knee fracture. This afternoon, he is perched on the rickshaw's passenger seat. "I cannot ride my rickshaw for some days," he says matter-of-factly, closing the paperback in hand, using his finger as a substitute bookmark.

There was a time when Monu, a compulsive reader, preferred fiction over non-fiction. "I would read lots of novels, especially of Premchand ji and Reema Bharti ji." Each time he mentions a writer, he suffixes the name with the respectful 'ji.' Lately, he is drawn into history, though the book-of-the-day happens to be on religion. "Reading history helps... you get to know about temples, tombs, society."

Suddenly a loud cry is heard. A man is angrily running on the busy road, hurling out epithets into the smoggy air. Monu smiles, spontaneously breaking from Hindi to English: "Our incredible

India!" Some people grow into a life of reading because of influences within the family. Some others were into it instinctively, without being nudged by anybody. Monu belongs to the latter category. "During my school days, I would read storybooks to pass my time." His childhood was spent in a UP village near Moradabad. "My mother died when I was very young... I had to drop out of the school at aathi (class 8)... father died some 10 years ago."

Monu has been a rickshaw puller in the city for 20 years. He resides on this same pave, sleeping at night by the grey footpath wall.

Routinely spending a portion of his earnings on buying books, Monu picks up the latest title at the Sunday market for used books at Mahila Haat. He keeps his "small" library collection—along with his clothes, and a few other possessions—in a "peti." Every morning before leaving for the day's work, he hides the "peti" in a neighbourhood park.

As soon as the knee fracture heals, Monu will again start plying the rickshaw. "I will then read mostly at night, over there," he says, gesturing towards a pavement spot under the adjacent street lamp.



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