

## **NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (12.08.2022)**

**1. ऑडिट दिवस पर सीएजी की ऑनलाइन निबंध प्रतियोगिता, प्रथम विजेता को मिलेंगे 30 हजार रुपये** ([navbharattimes.indiatimes.com](http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com), [hindi.theprint.in](http://hindi.theprint.in), [punjabkesari.in](http://punjabkesari.in), [ibc24.in](http://ibc24.in)) Updated: 11 Aug 2022

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) की ओर से 16 नवंबर को मनाए जाने वाले ऑडिट दिवस के मौके पर ऑनलाइन निबंध प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। प्रतियोगिता के प्रथम विजेता को 30 हजार रुपये का पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा।

सीएजी की ओर से जारी एक बयान के मुताबिक, किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय का कोई भी विद्यार्थी इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा ले सकता है लेकिन उसकी उम्र 25 वर्ष से ज्यादा नहीं होनी चाहिए।

बयान के अनुसार,

1860 में 16 नवंबर को सर एडवर्ड ड्रमंड ने भारत के पहले महालेखा परीक्षक के रूप में पदभार संभाला था, इसी वजह से हर साल इस तारीख को ऑडिट दिवस मनाया जाता है।

उसमें बताया गया है कि प्रतिभागी 'सीएजी: भारत को पंचामृत प्राप्त करने में मदद करना - जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए पांच अमृत तत्व',

'सीएजी: संविधान के दृष्टिकोण को साकार करते हुए, आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव',

'2047 में सीएजी : कल्पना कीजिए कि आप वर्ष 2047 में भारत के सीएजी हैं। संस्था के लिए आपकी क्या रणनीति होगी?' विषयों पर अधिकतम 1500 शब्दों में हिंदी या अंग्रेजी में निबंध लिखकर, सीएजी की वेबसाइट के निबंध वाले खंड पर मेल कर सकते हैं।

बयान के मुताबिक, इस प्रतियोगिता में तीन विजेताओं का चयन किया जाएगा तथा प्रथम विजेता को 30 हजार रुपये, द्वितीय विजेता को 20 हजार रुपये और तृतीय विजेता को 15 हजार रुपये का नकद पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा।

उसमें बताया गया है कि विजेताओं की घोषणा 31 अक्टूबर को की जाएगी और 16 नवंबर को ऑडिट दिवस के मौके पर उन्हें पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/metro/lucknow/other-news/cags-online-essay-competition-on-audit-day-the-first-winner-will-get-30-thousand-rupees/articleshow/93502683.cms>

**2. ऑडिट दिवस पर ऑनलाइन निबंध प्रतियोगिता आयोजित करेगा सीएजी** ([livehindustan.com](http://livehindustan.com)) 11 Aug 2022

ऑडिट दिवस के मौके पर सीएजी एक ऑनलाइन निबंध प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन कर रहा है। इस प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम विजेता को तीस हजार का पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। इस प्रतियोगिता में मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय का कोई भी छात्र हिस्सा ले सकता है।

सीएजी ने गुरुवार को एक बयान जारी कर कहा कि भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) की ओर से 16 नवंबर को मनाए जाने वाले ऑडिट दिवस के मौके पर इस प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया

जा रहा है। प्रतिभागी 'सीएजी: भारत को पंचामृत प्राप्त करने में मदद करना - जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए पांच अमृत तत्व',

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इस प्रतियोगिता में तीन विजेताओं का चयन किया जाएगा। प्रथम विजेता को 30 हजार रुपये, द्वितीय विजेता को 20 हजार रुपये और तृतीय विजेता को 15 हजार रुपये का नकद पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। बयान में कहा गया कि विजेताओं की घोषणा 31 अक्टूबर को की जाएगी और 16 नवंबर को ऑडिट दिवस के मौके पर उन्हें पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा। भाग लेने वाले प्रतिभागी की उम्र 25 साल से ज्यादा नहीं होनी चाहिए। <https://www.livehindustan.com/ncr/new-delhi/story-cag-to-organize-online-essay-competition-on-audit-day-6924539.html>

### **3. CAG raises red flag over Centre's increased debts, revenue deficit during pre-Covid period ([telanganatoday.com](http://telanganatoday.com)) Aug 11, 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in its latest report, raised a red flag over the union government's increased debts and revenue deficit during the pre-Covid period. The Centre has been advised to immediately draw a specific plan for reduction of its debt to minimise expenditure on debt servicing and consequently, make more of its non-debt receipts available for meeting its expenditure priorities.

An observation of the CAG report, indicates the precise reasons as to why the Centre has been pressurising the States to cut down the subsidies and welfare schemes, terming them as freebies which were becoming a burden on the nation's economy. The Narendra Modi government has already commenced an exercise in identifying the ways including restrictions on State borrowings, to check States' spending on handouts like free electricity and rations.

In its latest report on the union government's 'Compliance of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act' for the year 2019-20, the CAG found that the debt sustainability indicator was negative in Financial Year 2019-20 as opposed to during financial years 2015-16 to 2018-19. Debt sustainability can be defined as the ability of the government to maintain a constant debt to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio over a period and embodies the concern about the ability to service its debt.

Analysis of various debt sustainability indicators for the five-year period from 2015-16 to 2019-20, revealed that it has turned negative during the year 2019-20 on account of near doubling of the Primary Deficit (PD) to Rs 3.75 lakh crore from Rs 1.88 lakh crore in 2018-19. It is also attributed to low GDP growth rate of 6.22 per cent in 2019-20 compared to 10.59 per cent in 2018-19. Fiscal Deficit which remained stable during years 2016-17 to 2018-19, went up from 4.15 per cent of GDP in 2018-19 to 5.14 per cent of GDP in 2019-20.

The union government's debt has been alarmingly increasing over the last five years and during the financial year 2019-20, it increased by 12.62 per cent over the fiscal 2018-19. The Debt-GDP ratio stood at 50.49 per cent during 2015-16 and

subsequently reduced to 49.33 per cent in 2018-19, only to shoot up to 52.3 per cent in 2019-20 when the debt growth rate outgrew the nominal GDP growth rate.

The CAG pointed out that the Central government debt was Rs 1.04 crore crore in 2019-20 i.e., 52.30 per cent of the GDP. However, given the FRBM target of reduction of Central government debt to 40 percent of GDP by end of 2025, from the current level of 52.30 per cent the target could be hoped to be achieved only with faster growth in GDP.

In an indication that the Centre has been spending more on non-capital expenditure, the capital expenditure during 2019-20 decreased to 12.72 per cent of total expenditure from 14.71 per cent in 2018-19.

Further, the CAG observed that the net interest cost to total revenue received was around 30 per cent of the total revenue and showed an increasing trend since 2015-16. Though the average interest cost on debt showed a declining trend from 6.96 per cent in 2016-17 to 6.61 per cent in 2019-20, the actual interest paid on debt consistently increased during the corresponding period from Rs 4.57 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 6.55 lakh crore in 2019-20. The CAG attributed this to expanding overall debt. <https://telanganatoday.com/cag-raises-red-flag-over-centres-increased-debts-revenue-deficit-during-pre-covid-period>

#### **4. Record keeping rules for charitable institutions get tighter ([economictimes.indiatimes.com](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com)) Aug 12, 2022**

All charitable trusts, institutions, universities and other educational trusts and medical institutions are required to keep and maintain books of account, original bills of payment, PAN card, Aadhar card and address of voluntary donors and trustees, along with details of loan taken and investment made by them.

Trusts and institutions are also required to maintain record of projects undertaken, voluntary contributions received, every fund transferred to others, incomes from assets and investments, and all purchases made by the trust.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday mandated all charitable trusts to maintain the records for 10 years from the assessment years for better tax scrutiny.

In addition, all donations from overseas are required to be maintained strictly, it said.



The trusts have to keep "application of income outside India containing details of amount of application, name and address of the person to whom any credit or payment is made and the object for which such application is made", the CBDT said in a notification.

It also said that the record of properties held by the assessee will require details such as the nature and address of the properties, cost of acquisition of asset, registration documents of the asset, documents of transfer of such properties and the net consideration utilised in acquiring the new capital asset. In case of movable properties, details of the nature and cost of acquisition of the asset will be required.

"The books of accounts and other documents specified in sub-rule (1) may be kept in written form or in electronic form or in digital form or as print-outs of data stored in electronic form or in digital form or any other form of electromagnetic data storage device," said the notification.

The move came two days after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had flagged serious lapses in tax audits of charitable institutions in an audit report.

In the audit report, tabled in Parliament on Monday, the CAG asked the I-T Department to amend existing legislation to prevent the misuse of tax exemption granted to charitable trusts, including educational trusts.

"Certain trusts/institutions are taking undue benefits by availing of the permissible accumulation of 15% out of the current year's income and then transferring the rest of the income to others trusts," said the report.

Taking note of the rampant misuse of exemptions by educational trusts, the audit report pointed out that the tax department should consider granting registration to educational trusts or institutions on the condition that separate accounts be maintained for educational and non-educational activities. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/record-keeping-rules-for-charitable-institutions-get-tighter/articleshow/93507688.cms>

## **5. CAG points out loopholes in GST and makes recommendations** ([news.cleartax.in](https://news.cleartax.in)) Aug 11, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India recently audited the GST system for the financial year ending 31st March 2021. The CAG identified some critical issues in the present GST system.

The issues range from failure to curb fraud and handling refunds to system loopholes. The department officers had granted GST refunds in many cases without proper verification. There is also no process to monitor post-refund compliance, such as the realisation of export proceeds. In some cases, refunds were granted twice. It also pointed out that there are discrepancies noticed between the declared tax liability and its taxable value.

The supreme audit authority has also opined that frequent changes in the GST system can leave it unsettled for taxpayers and businesses to cope. The CAG has shared potential solutions for addressing these issues.

It recommended that business rules be corrected sooner, systems and technology be implemented consistently with law, and building better data analytics of the GST ecosystem. Further, it expects that the GST Network (GSTN) data differences can be addressed effectively by establishing a robust review and follow-up system. All these would combine to give an excellent boost to the GST revenues.

The CAG also observed another major issue in migrating the pre-GST tax credit into the current regime. The transitional tax credit is a one-time inflow of input tax credit from the previous tax regime into the GST regime. The migrating taxpayers could avail it.

The authority audited in detail around 8519 out of 50,000 high-value cases bearing greater risk at a PAN-India level. The sample size addressed a transitional credit amounting to Rs.82,755 crore, which is 62% of the total transitional CGST credit. It noticed pending verifications and advised the CBIC to expedite the process by taking up high-risk accounts at the earliest.

The GSTN and CBIC are taking up many initiatives in recent times to curb tax evasion. E-Invoicing phase 5 for businesses with a turnover of more than Rs.10 crore will be implemented from 1st October 2022. The timelines are given well in advance for taxpayers to prepare for the change. The GST systems seem to be getting more efficient with the passing months. GSTR-9 filing facility for FY 2021-22 is already made live on the GST portal giving enough time for taxpayers to begin their annual reconciliations and reporting. <https://news.cleartax.in/cag-points-out-loopholes-in-gst-and-makes-recommendations/8388/>

## **6. Noted CAG report but matter sub-judice: Tata Comms** ([economictimes.indiatimes.com](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com)) Aug 11, 2022

Tata Communications has noted reports of under-reporting of gross revenue, but cannot comment on the matter for now considering parts of the matter are sub-judice, it said in a statement.



The statement, released Thursday, came after the Bombay Stock Exchange asked the company for clarification about media reports that stated that it had under-reported gross revenues, leading to lower payouts to the government.

"We have taken note of the recent news reports alluding to under-reporting of gross revenue. As issues relating to exclusion and inclusion of various components of gross revenue, in respect of Tata Communications licenses, are sub-judice, we cannot make any comment on the same," Tata Communications' statement read.

On August 9, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report said that under-reporting of gross revenue between 2006-07 to 2017-18 by the company led to Rs 645 crore lower levy of licence fee during the period.

"Audit scrutiny of Audited AGR Statements with reference to Profit & Loss Statements and Balance Sheets in respect of NLD, ILD and ISP-IT licenses of TCL for the period from 2006- 07 to 2017-18 revealed that there was an under reporting of Gross Revenue (GR) by Rs 13,252.81 crore and consequent short levy of LF of Rs 950.25 crore," it said.

The report added that the amount needs to be recovered from the company.

According to the CAG report, the Department of Telecommunications only levied Rs 305.25 crore as licence fee (LF) on the company.

"After deducting the DoT's assessment of LF of Rs 305.25 crore, the License Fee demanded from TCL by DoT was short by Rs 645 crore for the said period, which needs to be demanded and recovered," the report added.

The report explained that considering minimum rate of 0.15 per cent of AGR for spectrum charges, the estimated revenue foregone on a very conservative basis was Rs 67.53 crore towards spectrum charges for one carrier of E and V band and the annual expected revenue foregone was Rs 3.30 crore for one circle alone based on average AGR (adjusted gross revenue) reported by TSPs (telecom service providers) for the year 2020-21.

The E and V bands are expected to match data transmission speed equivalent to optical fibre and are in high demand by telecom operators for expediting rollout of telecom services.

Tata Trusts Taking Legal Opinion on Trust Deed Changes  
Tata Trusts Taking Legal Opinion on Trust Deed Changes

The Tata Trusts are consulting legal experts to examine the possibility of including a clause in the trust deeds to the effect that the same person cannot head them as well as holding company Tata Sons, while honouring the wills of the founders, top executives close to the development told ET.  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/noted-cag-report-but-matter-sub-judice-tata-comms/articleshow/93498079.cms>

## 7. Widespread fraud in jewellery sector ([jewellermagazine.com](http://jewellermagazine.com)) Aug 11, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has tabled a report to Parliament alleging large-scale money laundering and tax evasion is taking place in the gem and jewellery sector.

India is a major contributor to the international jewellery industry, leading the world in diamond cutting and polishing, while also being the world's largest consumer of gold.

CAG's main function is to audit all receipts and expenditures of the Government of India and the State Governments, as well as autonomous bodies and corporations receiving substantial government funding.

"These areas require stricter monitoring as the gems and jewellery sector involves significant risk of money laundering, round tripping, mis-invoicing, and risk of routing of black money in the garb of transactions and claims."

The report states that because of the high value of transactions and the importance of foreign exchange trade in the industry, the jewellery sector is highly susceptible to misuse.

As a part of the report, CAG auditors discovered that India's import of pearls from 2013 through 2018 routinely exceeded the average annual value of global pearl production by more than 300 per cent.

"The value of imports of pearls in India being much higher than the value of global production of pearls is indicative of trade mis-invoicing and round-tripping of funds which have been flagged as critical concerns in respect of the gems and jewellery sector," the report states.

At one stage India's import of pearls exceeded the annual average global production by 800 per cent. India primarily imports pearls from the UAE, Hong Kong and Thailand.

The report also identifies "irregular trends" in the increase of quantity and value of the import and export of rough diamonds between 2010 and 2020.

"Audit noticed issues indicative of weak monitoring mechanism in the ITD (Income Tax Department) with respect to the gems and jewellery sector," the report reads.

"These areas require stricter monitoring as the gems and jewellery sector involves significant risk of money laundering, round tripping, mis-invoicing, and risk of routing of black money in the garb of transactions and claims."

The CAG report concludes with 19 recommendations for actions the government should take to reduce criminal abuse of the gem and jeweller sector in India. <https://www.jewellermagazine.com/Article/10787/Widespread-fraud-in-jewellery-sector>

## **8. CAG Tells J&K Admin to Augment Its Own Tax Revenue** ([kashmirobservers.net](https://kashmirobservers.net)) Aug 11, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has recommended that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory should make efforts for augmentation of its own tax revenue.

In its audit report on the Union Territory Finances for the year ended 31 March 2021, the CAG has stated that the J&K UT's own tax revenue fell short by 32 percent of budget estimates of 2020-21.

"The collection under own tax revenue fell short by 32.96 per cent of Budget Estimates. The UT government could not achieve its own targets for own tax revenue," reads the report.

The report was tabled in both Houses of the Parliament on August 8.

According to the report, the UT's own resources (own tax revenue and own non-tax Revenue) of Rs 12,953 crore during the year 2020-21 was not enough to cover its committed liabilities (salaries & wages, interest payments and pension) of Rs 39,302.27 crore for the year 2020-21.

The UT's performance in mobilisation of resources is assessed in terms of its own resources comprising own tax and non-tax sources.

The own tax revenues of the UT consist of Goods and Services Tax (GST), UT Excise, Taxes on Vehicles, Stamp Duty and Registration fees, Land revenue, Taxes on Goods and Passengers etc.

The non-tax revenue consists of interest receipts, dividends and profits, mining receipts, departmental receipts etc. <https://kashmirobservers.net/2022/08/11/cag-tells-jk-admin-to-augment-its-own-tax-revenue/>

## **STATES NEWS ITEMS**

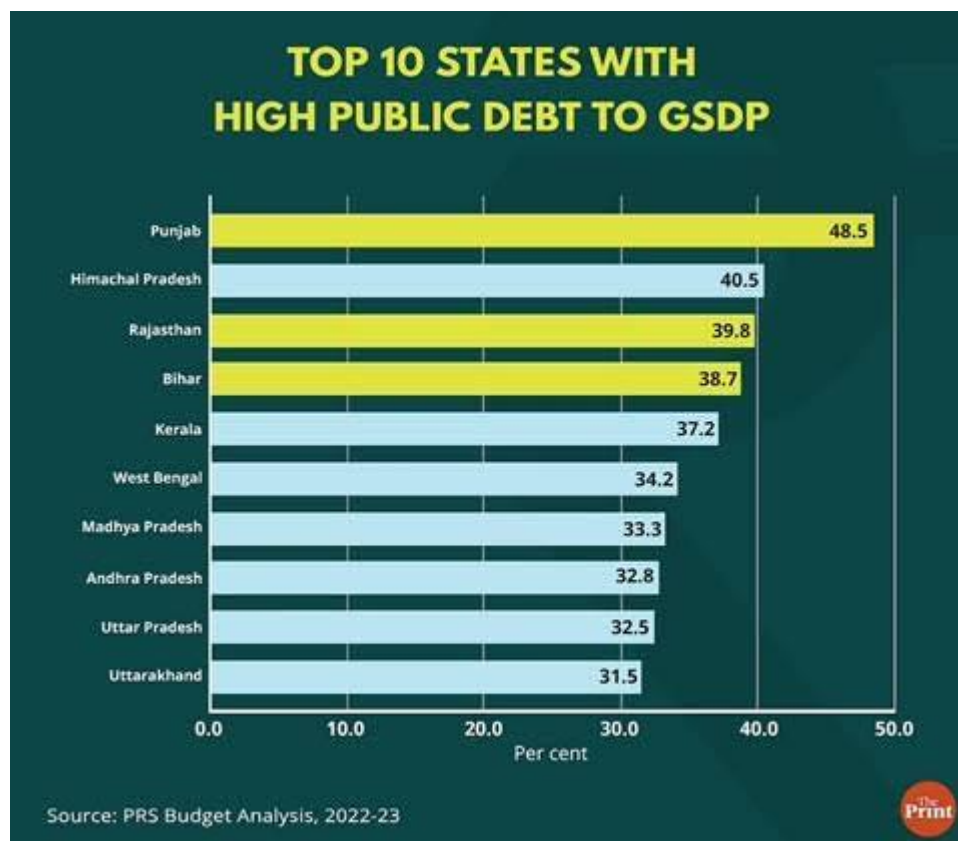
### **9. Why are Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan fiscally stressed? Every state has its own root cause** ([theprint.in](https://theprint.in)) Aug 12, 2022

**Bihar has lowest own tax revenue, Punjab high committed expenditures, while Rajasthan has deviated from fiscal deficit target. Such states need to balance vote bank & fiscal prudence.**

In a recent meeting of the governing council of the NITI Aayog, some state governments sought a five-year extension for the compensation paid to states for revenue shortfall due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The fiscal health of states deteriorated sharply owing to the collapse of revenue and a sharp increase in expenditures due to the pandemic.



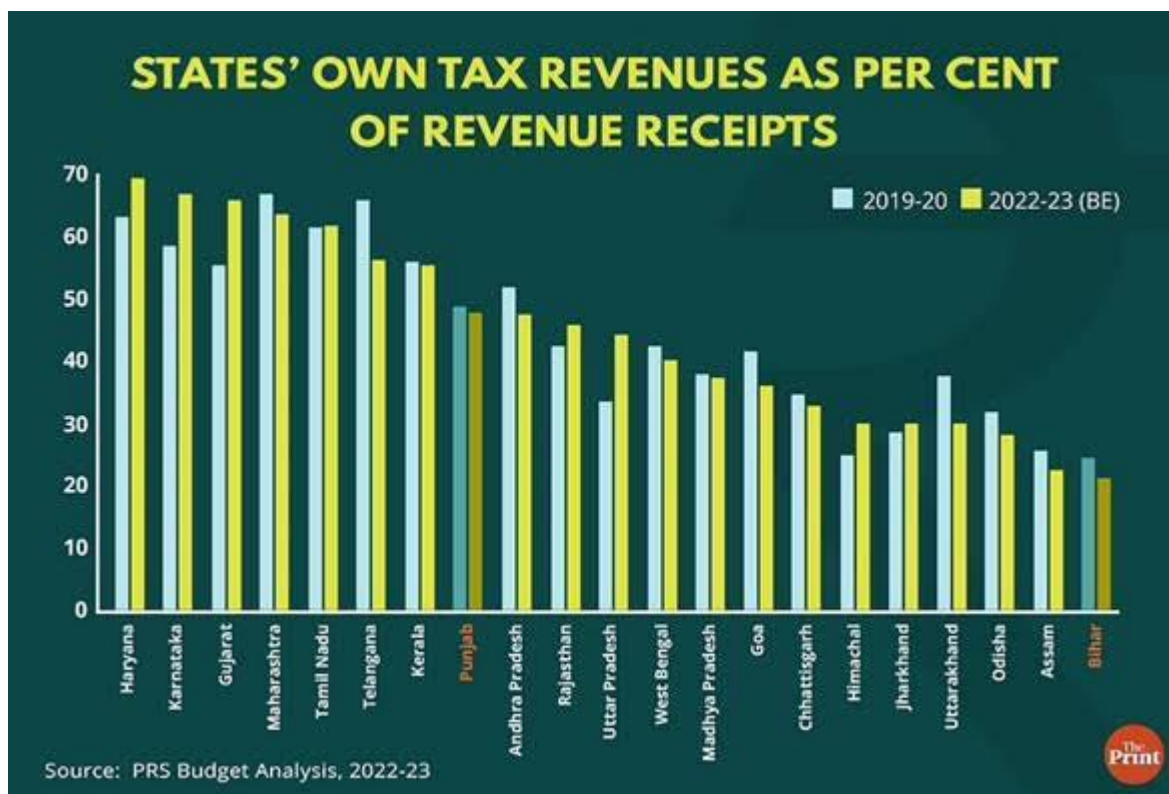
While revenues have turned robust in recent months, the fiscal position of states continues to remain weak. However, there are substantial inter-state variations. The Reserve Bank of India in its recent analysis has identified Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal as highly fiscally stressed states.



The first quarter data suggests that Bihar’s finances continue to be a cause of concern. The finances of states like Rajasthan and Punjab also need attention as they have high debts and higher proportion of committed expenditures, which squeezes the fiscal space for incurring developmental expenditure.

### **Bihar: Decline in own tax revenues & deterioration in expenditure quality**

Tax revenues of states include states’ share in central taxes and states’ own tax revenues. The Finance Commission in its five-year award period determines the share of each state in central taxes based on certain criteria. Bihar has the lowest own tax revenue as a share of revenue receipts amongst all major states. From 23.7 per cent in 2020-21, the share of own tax revenues in the total revenue collections declined to 20.7 per cent in 2021-22. In contrast, states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Haryana generate more than 50 per cent of their revenues through their own taxes.



Interestingly, Uttar Pradesh has seen a turnaround in its own tax revenues with more than 10 per cent jump in the share in the last two years. Karnataka has also seen an uptick in its share of own tax revenues. The decline in own tax revenues affects the state's expenditure planning and increases dependence on market borrowings. Bihar needs to significantly improve its revenue base.

The tepid growth in own tax revenues is also reflected in higher fiscal deficit of the state. For 2021-22, the state's budgeted fiscal deficit was 2.97 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). However, the revised fiscal deficit surged to more than 11 per cent of GSDP. For this year, the Bihar government has projected a fiscal deficit of 3.47 per cent, which is sought to be achieved by a massive 23 per cent reduction in capital outlay.

According to the audit report on Bihar's finances by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), capital expenditure has been showing a slide since 2016-17. The share of capital outlay to GSDP declined from more than 6 per cent in 2016-17 to 2.94 per cent in 2020-21.

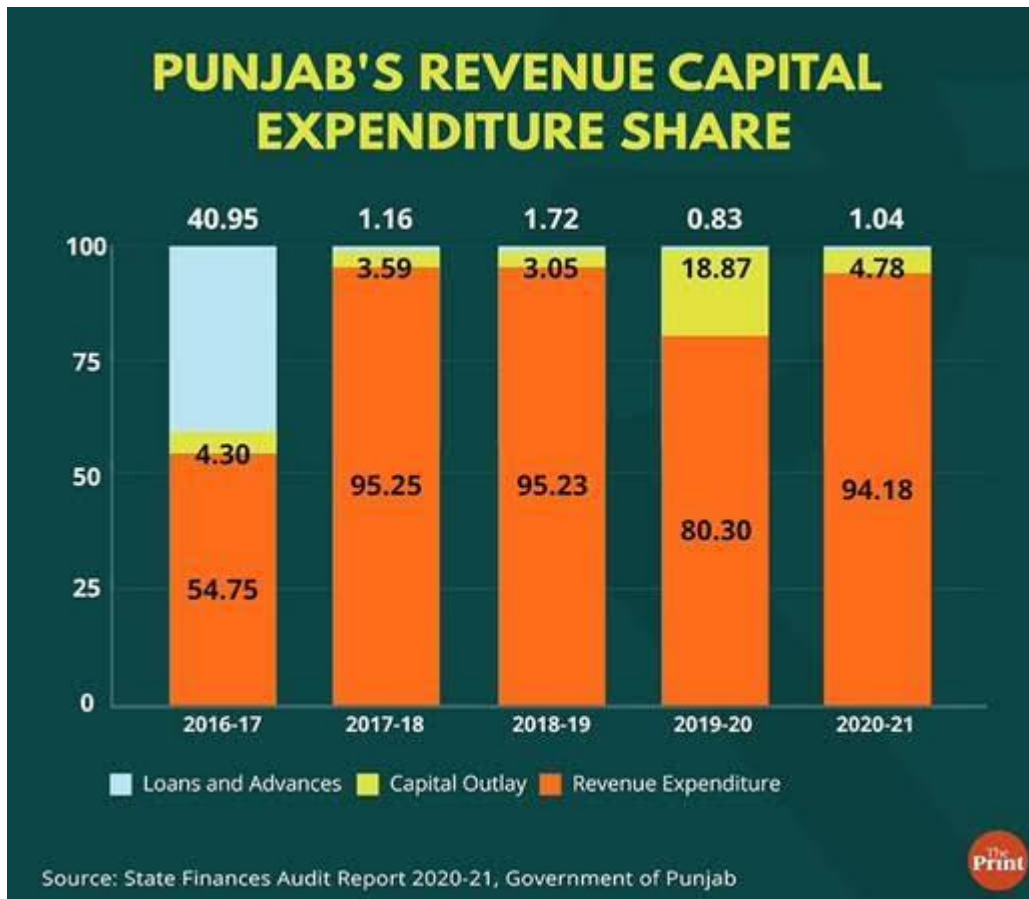
#### **Punjab: Higher share of committed expenditure, low capex and highest debt**

The audit report on state finances highlighted that during 2017-2021, revenue expenditure constituted the dominant proportion of the total expenditure (between 80-95 per cent). The state government has attributed low capital expenditure to high committed expenditures of the state such as salaries, wages, pension and interest servicing. In 2022-23, Punjab is estimated to spend 70 per cent of its revenue receipts in committed expenditure.

Another big component of revenue expenditure has been on subsidies, particularly on power. In this year's budget, Punjab has allocated Rs 6,947 crore towards providing

free power to farmers. According to a note by PRS Legislative Research, the states' expenditure on education, health, roads and bridges has been lower than the average expenditure by states.

A recently released white paper on state finances by the government of Punjab highlighted that the share of central transfers in the total revenues of the state has doubled from 23 per cent in 2011-12 to 46 per cent in 2021-22. During the same period, the state's own tax revenues as a share of total revenues has decreased from 72 per cent to 48 per cent. The decline in the state's own tax revenue indicates little emphasis on revenue mobilisation measures by the state.

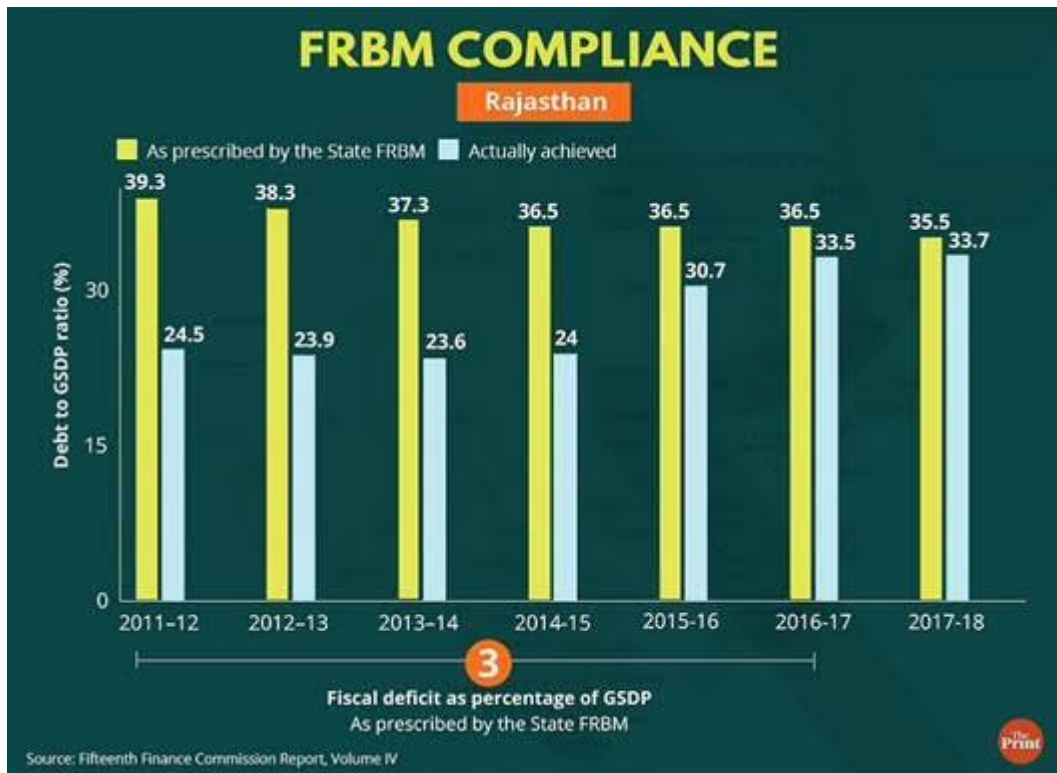


The decline in own tax revenues has resulted in higher borrowings. Punjab is one of the highly indebted states with its outstanding liability as percentage to GSDP estimated to be 48.5 per cent at end March 2023. Punjab is expected to remain in the worst position as its debt is likely to exceed 45 per cent in 2026-27.

### Rajasthan: Deviation from fiscal deficit targets

Rajasthan's fiscal position is also characterised by high debt levels, low share of capital expenditure in the total expenditure and a substantial share of committed expenditure in total revenue collections. The audit report on state finances has shown a slide in the share of capex in total expenditure from 3.2 per cent in 2015-16 to 1.4 per cent in 2019-20. Like Punjab, committed expenditure accounts for a substantial proportion of revenue receipts. In 2022-23, Rajasthan is estimated to spend 56 per cent of its revenues on committed expenditure.

The 15th Finance Commission's report shows that while the state has adhered to its debt ratio as mandated by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, it has deviated from its fiscal deficit target in recent years. In 2021-22, against a fiscal deficit target of 3.93 per cent of GSDP, the revised estimate showed a deficit of 5.14 per cent. Clearly, the state needs a careful calibration of expenditure for generating income.



The fiscally vulnerable states need to walk a tightrope between looking after their vote banks and enhancing fiscal prudence. <https://theprint.in/macrosutra/why-are-bihar-punjab-rajasthan-fiscally-stressed-every-state-has-its-own-root-cause/1078564/>

**10. HPGCL lost out on Rs 15,576 crore revenue during 2016-21, says CAG (tribuneindia.com) Aug 12, 2022**

Haryana: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed that Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) lost out potential revenue of Rs 15,576.80 crore, from 2016-17 to 2020-21, as all units of thermal power plants couldn't be run on plant load factor (PLF) approved by the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC).

**Position of plants deteriorated in merit order**

The position of the thermal plants in the merit order deteriorated due to which the company (HPGCL) lost opportunity of earning potential revenue of Rs 13,449.61 crore by not generating 38,862.43 MUs of power. CAG

The PLF represents the percentage of actual generation to generating capacity of the plant. For a subsequent period, it is assessed by the HPGCL, and assessment is

approved by the HERC considering all factors affecting generation. The actual PLF of each HPGCL unit was on decreasing trend during 2016-2021.

Had all units been run on the PLF approved by the HERC, the additional 49,559.73 MUs of power would have been generated, said CAG. The main reasons for the low PLF were forced outages due to various technical problems, poor planning in execution of works pertaining to capital overhauling, which resulted into prolonged shutdown of plants, and backing down instructions (BDIs) of units due to their higher variable cost, said CAG. A backing down refers to shutdown of the unit due to the availability of cheaper power elsewhere or less demand.

Out of the total outages of 1,94,580 hours (56.92 per cent of total available 3,41,832 hours), as much as 47.76 per cent outages were due to backing down of plants at the instructions of the DISCOMs — Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) and Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitram Nigam (DHBVN).

The CAG report, tabled in Haryana Legislative Assembly, on August 10, pointed out that the generation at power plants declined from 10,567.83 MUs in 2017-18 to 5,466.81 MUs in 2020-21. The generation was below the normative generation, approved by the HERC, and ranged between 42.61 and 69.24 per cent during 2017-21. The management of HPGCL replied (May 2022) to audit that effective steps had been taken to minimise the forced outages and reduce backing down of plants by minimising the cost of power.

DISCOMs are bound to schedule power on the basis of ranking of all approved sources of supply in the order of their variable cost. The merit order is decided every month on the basis of variable cost (generation cost) and point of connection (POC) charges (transmission losses) of electricity by the generating stations. The most expensive generator is kept at the top of the merit order and gets the least opportunity to supply power.

As per the merit order, plants of the HPGCL were one of the expensive plants among the 33 power plants. Their ranks in merit order ranged between first and 13th during 2016-17 to 2020-21. “The position of the thermal plants in the merit order deteriorated due to which the company (HPGCL) lost opportunity of earning potential revenue of Rs 13,449.61 crore by not generating 38,862.43 MUs of power,” said CAG.

The management replied to audit that the HPGCL plants were backed down on not being scheduled by DISCOMs due to erroneous merit order.

Unit-II of the Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Plant (RGTPP), Hisar, got damaged (September 2020) due to irregular loading pattern. The HPGCL had not carried out any cost-benefit analysis either go for repair or purchase new equipment. The High Intermediate Pressure (HIP) rotor had been received during January 2022 but the unit could not be commissioned due to non-receipt of associated spares. It resulted in the non-recovery of the fixed cost of Rs 396.77 crore from the DISCOMs apart from the loss of potential revenue for the forced shutdown period.

The company suffered a generation loss of 63.80 MUs of green energy valuing Rs 30.73 crore in respect of the Western Yamuna Canal Hydro Electric Project due to

acceptance of non-interchangeable blades and delay in completion of overhauling work of machines. Due to lesser generation, DISCOMs had to purchase 63.80 MUs of power from other sources resulting in an extra burden of Rs 30.73 crore on consumers, said CAG. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/hpgcl-lost-out-on-5-576-crore-revenue-during-2016-21-says-cag-421196>

## 11. 120-year-olds among Haryana pensioners ([tribuneindia.com](https://www.tribuneindia.com)) Aug 12, 2022

The Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out glaring errors in the record of beneficiaries of three different pension schemes in Haryana.

In 15,646 cases, the beneficiary's age has been mentioned either between 120 years and 2,068 years or "zero" and "null". The anomalies have been detected in the data of beneficiaries of three Centrally-sponsored schemes — Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.

"Of 15,646 beneficiaries, 3,145 are related to old age pension scheme, wherein the data in the age field was entered incorrectly. It is either less than 60 years or more than 120 years. The remaining 12,501 beneficiaries pertain to divyang and widow pension schemes. Here, the age column has 'null' or 'zero' entry in the database," said the CAG report, which was tabled in the state Assembly on August 8.

The audit of the record was conducted for the period starting on April 1, 2017, till July 31, 2020. The report said,

"If the age mentioned is less than 60 years, the person is rendered ineligible for the scheme and if it is more than 120 years, the same is subject to investigation. However, no correction or checking in these cases was done by the department concerned even after 39 months of digitisation of the record."

As per the schemes, both Central and state governments contribute funds for extending benefit to the eligible persons. The CAG said since the state government was not aware of the age of beneficiaries in these cases, the amount sought from the Centre as reimbursement would be incorrect and could cause loss for the state government. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/120-year-olds-among-haryana-pensioners-421161>

## 12. कैग रिपोर्ट में खुलासा: शराब पीने योग्य है या नहीं, प्रमाणपत्र बाद में मिल रहा, पहले ही बिक जाती मदिरा ([amarujala.com](https://www.amarujala.com)) 12 Aug 2022

पंजाब डिस्टिलरीज नियम,

1932 के नियम 17 में यह प्रावधान है कि लाइसेंस धारक डिस्टिलरी में तैयार होने वाली शराब और स्पिरिट के नमूनों की जांच कराएगा। नकली और मिलावटी शराब की बिक्री रोकने के लिए यह अनिवार्य है।

सुरा के दीवाने सावधान हो जाएं! हरियाणा में शराब की बिक्री रासायनिक जांच पूरी होने से पहले की जा रही है। शराब पीने योग्य है या नहीं, इसका प्रमाणपत्र बाद में मिल रहा है, जबकि लोग इसे पहले ही गटक



चुके होते हैं। शराब डिस्टिलरी में 55 लाख होलोग्राम का दुरुपयोग होने की भी आशंका है। डिस्टिलरी और प्लांट में क्लोज सर्किट टेलीविजन कैमरे नहीं लगे हैं, फ्लो मीटर का अभाव है।

भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक यानी कैग की जांच में यह खुलासा हुआ है। विधानसभा में सदन पटल पर रखी गई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कैग ने पांच डिस्टिलरी के शराब उत्पादन के 2019-21 के दस्तावेजों की जांच की। देशी और भारत में निर्मित विदेशी शराब के 10729 नमूनों को रासायनिक जांच के लिए परीक्षकों के पास भेजा गया, जिनमें से चार डिस्टिलरी के 9194 नमूनों की रिपोर्ट 28 से 312 दिन बाद प्राप्त हुई। जबकि, रासायनिक प्रमाणपत्र शराब बनने के एक से सात दिनों के भीतर लेना जरूरी है।

आबकारी एवं कराधान अधिकारियों और निरीक्षकों ने न तो जांच प्रमाण समयबद्ध तरीके से करने की अवधि को सख्ती से लागू कराया न ही रासायनिक परीक्षक की अनिवार्य रिपोर्ट के बिना डिस्टिलरी से शराब की आपूर्ति और बिक्री रोक दी। जांच में यह भी पाया गया कि डिस्टिलरी को होलोग्राम जारी करने और संबंधित दस्तावेजों का समय पर मिलान करने के लिए कोई तंत्र नहीं है।

आबकारी एवं कराधान उपायुक्त व आयुक्त की तरफ से जारी होलोग्राम की मात्रा और स्टॉक में काफी अंतर पाया गया। कैग ने करनाल की एक डिस्टिलरी में 54.70 लाख होलोग्राम का दुरुपयोग होने की आशंका जताई है। उसके मुताबिक उस डिस्टिलरी को 2019-21 तक 16.22 करोड़ होलोग्राम तक दिए गए, जबकि उसके स्टॉक रजिस्टर में 15.68 करोड़ होलोग्राम का ही रिकॉर्ड मिला।

### **मिलावटी शराब की बिक्री रोकने के लिए यह जरूरी**

पंजाब डिस्टिलरीज नियम,

1932 के नियम 17 में यह प्रावधान है कि लाइसेंस धारक डिस्टिलरी में तैयार होने वाली शराब और स्पिरिट के नमूनों की जांच कराएगा। नकली और मिलावटी शराब की बिक्री रोकने के लिए यह अनिवार्य है।

### **विभाग और डिस्टिलरी के अपने तर्क**

आबकारी एवं कराधान विभाग ने कहा है कि सभी डिस्टिलरी की पूरी निगरानी कर रहे हैं। फ्लो मीटर लगा देने की टेंडर प्रक्रिया चल रही है। क्लोज सर्किट टेलीविजन कैमरे लगाने का काम प्रगति पर है। होलोग्राम मामले की जांच कराने का कार्य जारी है। शराब डिस्टिलरी के अधिकारियों ने कैग को बताया कि रासायनिक प्रमाणपत्र देरी से मिलने की स्थिति में शराब की बिक्री रोक नहीं जा सकती। इससे शराब की बिक्री बुरी तरह प्रभावित होगी।

### **होलोग्राम जरूरी क्यों**

होलोग्राम शराब को पहचानने का आधार है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मोड में 10 अंकों की संख्या बनाकर होलोग्राम पर मुद्रित की जाती है। मिलावटी शराब से बचाव के लिए होलोग्राम की कोड आधारित ट्रैक एंड ट्रेस प्रणाली लागू की गई है। शराब को पूरी तरह जांचने-परखने के बाद ही होलोग्राम लगाया जाता है। लेकिन, हरियाणा में बिना जांच प्रमाणपत्र के होलोग्राम शराब की बोतलों पर चिपकाए जा रहे हैं।

## बीते साल 15 करोड़ से अधिक बोतल बिकीं

अंग्रेजी शराब की 12 करोड़ बोतल

देशी शराब की 2.88 करोड़ बोतल

विदेशी शराब की 75 लाख बोतल

<https://www.amarujala.com/chandigarh/liquor-being-sold-before-completion-of-chemical-test-in-haryana?pagelid=1>

## 13. 91 हजार के लिए स्वर्गधाम जा रही पेंशन! ([dainiktribuneonline.com](http://dainiktribuneonline.com)) A

UGUST 11, 2022

हरियाणा के सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग में बुढ़ापा, विधवा, बेसहारा महिला व दिव्यांग आदि वर्गों की पेंशन में बड़ा फर्जीवाड़ा सामने आया है। कैग द्वारा विधानसभा के मानसून सत्र के दौरान टेबल की गई रिपोर्ट में इसका खुलासा हुआ। स्थिति यह है कि 91 हजार से अधिक मृतकों के नाम पर बरसों पेंशन गयी और 98 करोड़ से अधिक का गोलमाल हुआ। इनमें 1092 लोग तो ऐसे हैं, जिनकी डेथ के बाद विभाग ने उनकी पेंशन शुरू कर दी। यही नहीं, एक ही आधार नंबर पर 25 हजार लोगों को पेंशन देने का भी खुलासा हुआ है। बेशक अब हरियाणा में ऐसी गड़बड़ी की गुजांइश नहीं है क्योंकि सरकार ने परिवार पहचान-

पत्र के साथ पेंशन सहित सभी योजनाओं को लिंक कर दिया है, फिर भी इससे पहले तो कागजों की हेराफेरी से यह फर्जीवाड़ा सामने आया ही है। कैग ने जांच की सिफारिश की है। वर्ष 2017 से 2020 की अवधि में विभाग ने 1 हजार 475 ऐसे लोगों की भी पेंशन शुरू कर दी, जो पहले से ही सरकार से पेंशन योजना का लाभ ले रहे थे।

कैग ने चालीस माह तक की अवधि के लिए चयनित योजनाओं को अपने ऑडिट में शामिल किया। इस दौरान पता चला कि 91 हजार 436 मृतकों के नाम पेंशन जारी कर दी गयी। खुलासा हुआ कि 74 हजार 983 वृद्धावस्था पेंशन योजना के मृतक लाभार्थी थे और उन्हें 81 करोड़ 29 लाख रुपये का भुगतान हुआ। इसी तरह से 12 हजार 900 विधवा और निराश्रित महिलाओं को पेंशन दी गयी। अब यह विभाग ही बता पाएगा कि लाभार्थी दुनिया में हैं ही नहीं तो पेंशन मिली किसे। रिपोर्ट में सामने आया कि 3 हजार 553 दिव्यांग व्यक्ति भी अपनी मौत के बाद पेंशन लेते रहे। कैग आडिट रिपोर्ट में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि प्रदेश के छह जिलों- अंबाला, कैथल, करनाल, कुरुक्षेत्र, पंचकूला और यमुनानगर में 25 हजार 861 लोगों के खातों में उनकी मृत्यु के बाद पेंशन राशि डाली गई।

### नाम इनका, भुगतान उनको

कैग ने 237 करोड़ 31 लाख रुपये के फर्जीवाड़े का खुलासा किया है। इतना ही नहीं, किसी की पेंशन किसी और के खाते में डाल दी गई। जैसे पेंशन बनी 'राधेश्याम' की और खाते में डाल दी गई 'हरीराम' के। दूसरों के नाम पर पेंशन डालने में ही 54 करोड़ 53 लाख रुपये से अधिक की गड़बड़ हो गई। मामला पकड़ में आने के बाद ब्याज सहित रिकवरी के आदेश दिए गए। कैथल में ही पांच मामलों में 6 लाख 11 हजार रुपये की वसूली हो पाई। <https://www.dainiktribuneonline.com/news/haryana/pension-going-to-heaven-for-91-thousand-113101>

## 14. Jharkhand rural electrification work frown, says report ([telegraphindia.com](https://www.telegraphindia.com)) AUGUST 12, 2022

Rural electrification work in Jharkhand is far from satisfactory, according to a standalone report on the implementation of rural electrification schemes in the state.

The report was submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India to the Jharkhand Assembly on the last working day of its monsoon session.

The CAG team conducted a performance audit for assessing implementation of rural electrification schemes in the state during a five-year period from 2015 and 2020.

The audit team test checked implementation of the schemes of both the Union and state governments such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vaidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Prime Minister Sahaj Har Ghar Vijli Yojana (Saubhahya), Atal Gram Jyoti Yojana (AGJY), Tilka Majhi Krishi Pump Yojana (TMKPY) and Jharkhand Sampurna Bijli Achchadan Yojana (JSBAY) in seven districts of the state — West Singhbhum, Simdega, Latehar, Palamau, Garhwa, Chatra and Dumka.

The state-owned power distribution company, Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (JBVNL), that was the nodal agency did not maintain proper database on the status of electrification of villages, the CAG report alleged, adding the turnkey contractors in those districts had found that 260 already electrified villages and 2,678 non-existing villages were included in the detailed project report meant for implementation of rural electrification schemes.

The CAG report further pointed out that JBVNL was deprived of central grants worth Rs 182.68 crore for its lapses like non-completion of work under RGGVY in Chatra, Garhwa, Palamau and Latehar districts, non-pursuance of electrification of left-out households belonging to below poverty line in Dumka and West Singhbhum districts and non-uploading of detailed project report for Simdega district.

Though rural electrification in those seven test-checked districts was targeted to be completed between July and December 2019, the audit team found that 819 (10%) of the 7,925 villages taken up under DDUGJY was not completed even by March 2020.

Further, 23,951 (21%) of 1,15,629 and 68,417 (32%) of 2,15,605 connections under RGGVY and DDUGJY respectively could not be provided till that time due various project bottlenecks.

Atal Gram Jyoti Yojana was closed before time after providing 1.86 lakh free connections to above poverty line households against a target of 3.64 lakh households because the JBVNL could not provide the list of world-be beneficiaries to turnkey contractors, the CAG report pointed out.

The Tilka Majhi Krishi Pump Yojana turned out be a fiasco, the report further said, adding the scheme, introduced in April 2015, aimed at providing 3.04 lakh agriculture connections but was closed in October 2018 as not a single application was received from farmers, mainly due to scarcity of water in water bodies for carrying out irrigation.

The audit team also found irregularities in appointment of implementing agencies.

Eighteen packages were awarded to six agencies for carrying out rural electrification works but none of those agencies met the required technical criteria to qualify for the bids, the CAG report said.

Besides, in 304 test-checked cases, the audit team also found there were instances of non-deduction of royalty, delay in execution of agreement, empanelment of vendors without inviting tenders and also violation of delegation of financial power in awarding contracts. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/jharkhand-rural-electrification-work-frown-says-report/cid/1879611>

## **15. Increasing debt raises issue of sustainability of Jharkhand govt finances: CAG ([lagatar24.com](http://lagatar24.com)) AUGUST 12, 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its latest audit report on finances of the Jharkhand government said that the increasing liabilities raise the issue of sustainability of the state government finances.

“Overall fiscal liabilities (total debt) increased from Rs 94,407 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 1,09,185 crore in 2020-21. The fiscal liabilities to GSDP ratio was 33.90 per cent against the MTFP (Medium Term Fiscal Plan) target of 32.60 per cent.

“Increasing liabilities raised the issue of sustainability of state government finances. Moreover, apportionment of fiscal liabilities of the composite Bihar state between successor states of Bihar and Jharkhand has not been done so far,” the CAG said.

Apart from the rising debt burden, the state has failed to earn any significant returns in 2020-21 on its investments made during the two-decade period since its formation. As it earned 1.35 per cent returns on its investments, it paid an interest rate of 6.13 per cent.

“As per annual accounts of the state ending 31 March 2021, the government had invested Rs 1,111.65 crore (in government companies, rural bank and cooperative institutions) since inception of the state in November 2000.

“The returns on the investment were negligible during 2020-21 while the government paid an average interest rate of 6.13 per cent on its borrowings during 2020-21,” the CAG report said. The return on Rs 1,111.65 crore stood at Rs 15 crore in 2020-21.

The country’s apex auditor also highlighted that apart from the investments, a huge amount of loans given by the government to entities were outstanding at the end of March 2021. More than Rs 3,000 crore new loans were advanced during the year.

“A significant portion of the total outstanding loans at the end of March 2021 (Rs 24,177 crore) was mainly outstanding with power companies (Rs 23,294 crore) and water supply, sanitation, housing and urban development (Rs 776 crore),” the report said.

On recourse to market loans and utilisation of borrowed funds, the CAG said that the state government could have avoided taking market loans when there was a large cash balance, and that the borrowed funds should not be used to repay interest on loans.

“During the year 2020-21, the state government raised Rs 8,900 crore from the market, while at the same time, the cash balance increased from Rs 3,463 crore to Rs 3,720 crore, indicating that much of the borrowing was avoidable,” the report said.

Further, the auditor giving the details of the utilisation of borrowed funds, said that the state had to repay Rs 2,744.82 crore for earlier borrowings during 2020-21 which was met from the borrowings of the current year “leading to less availability of borrowed funds for the capital expenditure and loans and advances given by the state”. <https://lagatar24.com/increasing-debt-raises-issue-of-sustainability-of-jharkhand-govt-finances-cag/114134/>

## **16. HC restrains DVAC from filing final report against Velumani in tender irregularities case ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) UPDATED: AUGUST 12, 2022**

**It, however, refuses to restrain the investigating agency from taking coercive action against him**

The Madras High Court on Thursday restrained Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) from filing a final report in a criminal case booked against former Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for alleged irregularities in award of tenders by Greater Chennai and Coimbatore corporations during his tenure.

First Division Bench of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice N. Mala passed the interim orders since the Supreme Court had recently ordered a fresh hearing of cases filed by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader R.S. Bharathi and non governmental organisation Arappor Iyakkam in the High Court in 2018, when he was the Minister, insisting upon an inquiry against him.

The Bench, however, refused to restrain the DVAC from taking coercive action against the former Minister and permitted the agency to proceed with the investigation. The FIR was registered after the DMK came to power, in May 2021, on the basis of Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) report indicating loss to the public exchequer because of the award of tenders during the erstwhile All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regime.

Since the FIR was registered during the pendency of the two cases, the High Court closed those cases. However, the former Minister approached the Supreme Court and obtained an order for a fresh hearing since the High Court had ordered a preliminary inquiry in 2019 and that inquiry found that there were no materials to prosecute him. The inquiry report was also accepted by the then government. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/hc-restrains-dvac-from-filing-final-report-against-velumani-in-tender-irregularities-case/article65758151.ece>

## 17. HC asks ED why Isaac needs to produce asset details ([uniindia.com](http://uniindia.com)) Aug 11, 2022

Kerala High Court on Thursday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) why former finance minister TM Thomas Isaac was asked to produce his asset details in connection with the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) case. Considering the writ petition moved by Thomas Isaac against the ED who asked him to appear before its probe team on August 11 in connection with the case, Justice V G Arun observed that he has a right to privacy.

"The details of his personal assets can only be disclosed in accordance with the procedure established by law. As he has not been accused in the case, why he should produce all such details."

The CPI(M) leader approached the court when the ED issued its second notice directing him to appear before it on August 11 in connection with the alleged violation of FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) in KIIFB.

This was the second time that the ED issued notice in four week time asking him to appear before its Kochi office for interrogation in connection with the case. On July 19, responding to the first notice received from the ED, the CPM leader said "Even if I get a notice, I am not going to appear before them. I have some other important things to do. They will have to arrest me."

KIIFB, a primary agency of the state government for financing large and critical infrastructure projects, was constituted when Isaac became the State Finance Minister.

Meanwhile, based on the CAG finding in 2020 that KIIFB had caused a liability of Rs 3,100 crore to the State Government, the ED sent a letter to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking the details of the Masala Bond.

The ED also probed whether the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) was violated by the KIIFB. The issue came to light after the CAG found that KIIFB was raising loans unconstitutionally.

According to the KIIFB balance sheet for the year 2019-20, it recorded a net loss of Rs 171.1 crores. The KIIFB recorded the loss first time after its revamp in 2016.

Pointing out faults in its method of availing foreign loans, the CAG reported serious lapses in its report in 2018-19 also. In 2019-20, it paid Rs 401.12 crore as interest for Masala bonds, guarantee commission and other loans availed from NABARD, SBI, Union Bank, Indian Bank, Syndicate Bank, KSFE bond.

The KIIFB raised Rs 2,150 through the Masala Bonds listed at London Stock Exchange at a high interest rate of 9.72 per cent. It is also to be noted that interest rate was less than 9.72 per cent in the case of domestic bonds.

Other states like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab had floated Statutory Liquidity Reserve Bonds (SLRB) at cheaper rates (7.5 to 8 per cent) through the Andhra Pradesh



Industrial Infrastructure Corporation and the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation respectively.

However, Kerala Government avoided its own Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) to float bonds for raising funds. The losses of the KIIFB will be absorbed by the State Government through budgetary allocation based on an amended KIIFB Act.

Experts say most of the projects funded by KIIFB will not yield any profit. Though the Government claims that projects worth Rs 60,000 are on the roll till March 31, the KIIFB has disbursed only Rs 4,736 crore.

Out of 4,746 crore, Rs 1,214 crore was given as grants, experts added.

The KIIFB is holding Rs 8,684 crore, raised through Masala Bond, as fixed deposits in various banks, mutual funds at lesser interest rates, proving financial mismanagement.

Criticising Kerala Government for violating the 7th schedule of Indian Constitution, the CAG report said the external borrowings through Masala Bonds by the KIIFB (Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board) were not in accordance with the Constitutional provisions and lacked legislative approval.

Stating that the KIIFB is the liability of the state government and Masala Bonds are external debts, the report said liability of the KIIFB having no income source will become the burden of the State Government.

Alleging that the Kerala was trying to grab the Centre's privileges, the report said the RBI approval to Masala Bond can be questioned.

In May 2019, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had opened the KIIFB masala bonds trade at the London Stock Exchange.

When the CAG report was placed in Kerala Assembly, the Opposition Congress party said the CAG report has brought out the gross mismanagement of economy by Dr Thomas Isaac. Massive off budget expenditures will burden the state with more debt, they felt.

"Foreign borrowing, as pointed out by the report is a serious violation of constitutional provision," the Congress said.

Earlier, Thomas Isaac tweeted that "A writ petition filed in the Hon`ble HC of Kerala seeking to restrain ED from enforcing my personal appearance before them for an offence that they are not willing to divulge. Such a fishing & roving enquiry is contrary to the spirit of decision of the Apex Court of India."

"ED served me 2nd summons under FEMA for personal appearance. The roving enquiry going on against KIIFB for the last 2 years is against the spirit of orders of the SC. I have asked them to recall the summons or clarify the offence against me or KIIFB," he tweeted. <http://www.uniindia.com/hc-asks-ed-why-isaac-needs-to-produce-asset-details/south/news/2799913.html>

## 18. Goa's Coastal Management body did NOT protect. IT DESTROYED! ([heraldgoa.in](http://heraldgoa.in)) Aug 12, 2022

PANJIM: It's like your own highly trained bodyguard assassinating you. This is exactly what the CAG has found the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) authority, kept to be the bodyguard of Goa's ecology, systematically doing- slow poisoning Goa's ecology to the point of death.

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has come under the direct scanner of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for granting permissions to the developmental and infrastructural projects, including that of the Central and State governments, by allowing the destruction of khazan land, sand dunes and mangroves- which otherwise should have been protected.

The latest CAG report on 'Conservation of Coastal Ecosystem', tabled in the Parliament, observed issues such as the absence of a monitoring system for coral reefs, non-preparation of management plans for turtle nesting sites, prohibited activities permitted in coastal sand dunes and khazan land, destruction of mangroves and gaps in its conservation, in Goa.

Khazan Land: CAG observed that due to the non-demarcation of khazan lands by the State, GCZMA granted approvals to projects which were otherwise impermissible in these protected areas.

For instance, clearances for projects involving the construction of a bypass from Bambolim Plateau to Verna Plateau and for cutting of 69 mangroves and temporary land filing in the said area were granted in December 2015 and October 2017, respectively, without ascertaining that the projects involved the use of khazan lands.

"Although the authority reply stated that the permission granted for the construction of bypass was temporary in nature, the fact that 12 columns constructed in the salt pans under the project were of permanent nature and were impermissible in the khazan land," CAG said.

Mangroves: CAG noted several instances of cutting of mangroves and other issues related to their conservation, despite notifying 14 species as protected, imposing a ban on their cutting. Mangroves are spread across 2,000 ha in Goa.

CAG observed that the authority in 2015 granted permission to cut 247 mangrove trees for the construction of Atal Setu, with a condition to re-plant the same number. However, the re-plantation had not been carried out by the project proponent- Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC).

Further, in 2017, GCZMA allowed the cutting of 69 mangrove trees for the construction of the new Zuari Bridge. The permission envisaged a condition that the project proponent (PWD) should deposit with the Mangrove Society of India, an amount for the plantation of mangroves. However, it was observed that mangrove replantation had not been carried out.

Sand Dunes: The Audit observed that GCZMA despite the existence of sand dunes gave permissions for infrastructure development and construction of hotels and residential houses along the beach stretches vulnerable to sand dunes. Construction of hotels/resorts/guesthouses, dune reclamation for making approach roads to the beaches, and landscaping were the major causes of destruction of sand dunes of Goa, prominently along the coastal stretches of Betul to Cansaulim, Sinquerim to Baga, Arambol, and middle of Morjim.

CAG observed that the construction of four-lane National Highway 17 B from Varunapuri to Sada Junction near Baina Beach was recommended by the authority in 2015 despite observations of the site inspection team that Baina Beach contained sand dunes covered with vegetation and that it was prone to annual cycles of erosion which made it ecologically sensitive and construction will disturb the ecological stability of sensitive beach. <https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Goa%E2%80%99s-Coastal-Management-body-did-NOT-protect-IT-DESTROYED/192852>

### **19. Body calls for 30-minute slabs to fix parking rates in Delhi ([hindustantimes.com](http://hindustantimes.com)) Aug 12, 2022**

Based on a case study of the on-street parking management around south Delhi's Green Park Metro station area, the Center for Sustainable and Equitable Cities (C-SEC)-- an organisation working on integrated transport systems and public space design-- has argued for the overhaul of parking systems around mass rapid transit stations.

The study, released on Wednesday, found that on-street parking is predominantly short term, with 51% car units parking for less than 30 minutes, while walking remains the main mode of access to the Metro station. While 70% of Metro users were found to walk to and from the station (first and last-mile connectivity), only 20% road space is allocated for pedestrian infrastructure.

The C-SEC has also made several recommendations arguing for smaller parking periods ranging from 30-minute slabs, differential parking rates based on demand in an area, the bundling of various streets to parking contractors to reduce competition and re-investment of 25% of the parking revenue for the upgradation of transportation infrastructure in the neighbourhood.

C-SEC has also proposed a new parking pricing structure based on data that shows a majority of drivers park for less than 30 minutes. "The fee should be charged for half hourly slots for first two hours and hourly thereafter. Roads should be categorised based on high demand (with more than 600 vehicles per day), low demand and arterial roads. Parking fees can be halved for electric vehicles," the study said, adding that this will lead to an increase in revenue for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) from the current ₹13 lakh per year to ₹3.45-6.05 lakh per day.

Researchers said that these strategies aim to encourage on-street parking for short-term users (those who park for less than two hours) and nudge long-term users to shift to off-street parking locations and multilevel car parks.

Sonal Shah, executive director of C-SEC, said they chose Delhi neighbourhood as a case study because the Capital has the largest Metro rail network and the highest number of vehicles per capita in India (643 vehicles per 1,000 residents). "The Metro rail achieved only 52% of its projected daily ridership in 2019-20 according to a Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report. Within this context, the Delhi government notified the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Rules (DMMPR) in 2019 with the intent to organise parking in the city. Our study builds on the parking rules to use on-street parking management as a tool around mass rapid transit stations to improve walkability and encourage a shift towards public transport," she said.

The study found that walkability around the Metro station was not up to the mark-- while 70% of the Metro users surveyed walked to and from the station, 80-90% of road space was occupied by vehicles. The remaining space did not offer a comfortable walking experience either, with poorly maintained footpaths that were encroached by parked vehicles. "Conversely, parking is very convenient for car and two-wheeler users, 87% of whom spend less than two minutes searching for on-street parking. Moreover, 74% of drivers reported walking less than 100 metres to their destination," the report said.

There is a 17-floor multilevel automatic car park in Green Park inaugurated by MCD in November 2020 which can accommodate 136 cars. The report said that while 82% cars were parked for less than two hours on the streets around the area, the nearby multi-level car parking facility only achieved an occupancy of 32%. "The Metro rail network in India covers around 753km, with cities such as Delhi and Bengaluru adopting transit-oriented development policies. Managing on-street parking around these stations could be the first step in implementing transit-oriented development in Indian cities," Shah added.

Meanwhile, experts said parking managements should adopt an area-based approach as compared to simply spot-fixing issues.

"High levels of air pollution had instigated the need for parking interventions back in 2006," Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director, Centre for Science and Environment, said.

Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, an urban policy and planning expert from National Institute of Urban Affairs, also said that mapping public transport accessibility levels in the Master Plan of Delhi 2041 could achieve multiplier effects. "Integrating demand management measures with transport infrastructure can achieve multiplier effects--improve lagging public transport ridership, improve walkability and, most critically, air quality," he said.

Atul Goyal, president of United Residents Joint Action, a civil society initiative that connects 2,500 residents' welfare associations in Delhi, emphasised the need to bridge the trust deficient between residents, citizens and the government for effective implementation of parking management plans. Shah emphasised that connecting the mass rapid transit and first and last-mile connectivity along with effective on-street parking management is critical to optimise investments and create better streets, and liveable and healthier cities. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/body-calls-for-30-minute-slabs-to-fix-parking-rates-in-delhi-101660243636252.html>

**20. L-G revokes pension of 9 former DDA officials in 9-year-old graft case ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) 12 Aug 2022**

**FIR ordered against 11 accused for carrying out work worth ₹114.8 crore despite sanctioned tender cost of ₹14.2 crore**

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday ordered an FIR against 11 Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials in a 9-year-old case of alleged corruption.

Action against the accused functionaries, nine of whom are retired and will have their pensions revoked permanently, was taken in connection with the upgrade and beautification of the Coronation Park at north Delhi's Kingsway Camp in 2013. The work was awarded to M/s Ajab Singh and Co.

L-G House sources said the accused officials allegedly carried out additional work worth ₹114.83 crore despite the sanctioned tender cost of ₹14.24 crore and Mr. Saxena's orders were aimed at ensuring accountability and fixing responsibility for "corruption and financial misconduct right at the cutting edge of decision-making".

"Mr. Saxena, in his capacity as Chairman, DDA, has expressed displeasure and ordered an FIR against the then Member (Finance) and Member (Engineering) of the DDA, apart from the nine retired officials, for blatant financial misappropriation and violation of Codal Formalities in 2013," a source said. The retired officials include a Chief Engineer, a Superintendent Engineer and an Executive Engineer, among others.

"The officials facing action include Abhay Kumar Sinha, then Member (Engineering), and Venkatesh Mohan, then Member (Finance). The retired officials are Om Prakash, Nahar Singh, J.P. Sharma, P.K. Chawla, Jasvir Singh, S.C. Mongia, S.C. Mittal, R.C. Jain and Dilbagh Singh Bains," the source added.

**'Grave misconduct'**

Terming it "grave misconduct and loss to the exchequer", the L-G, according to the source, issued orders to "permanently withdraw the full pension benefits" of the retired officials against the department's recommendation of withdrawing only 25% of their pension.

The case relates to work related to the Coronation Park at Kingsway Camp awarded to M/s Ajab Singh and Co. in 2013. The tender cost of the work was ₹14.24 crore but additional work amounting to ₹114.83 crore were carried out at Narela and Dhirpur, without any sanctions," the source said.

“This gross irregularity was pointed out by the CAG in its report in 2016, which concluded an overall deviation of 897.67%, almost 9 times the original cost,” the source said. The additional work, the source said, should have been done through fresh tenders that would have not only “saved crores” in terms of competitive bidding but also ensured better quality.

“In what appears to be a case of convenient collusion between the contractor and the officials, all laid-down norms were violated to benefit the contractor in lieu of probable commissions,” said the source.

“Interestingly, the execution of the additional work was approved by the then Chief Engineer (North Zone) on the day of his retirement in 2014. DDA officials from the accounts and finance departments released payments by diverting funds from other heads, thus violating laid down procedures,” the source added. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/l-g-revokes-pension-of-9-former-dda-officials-in-9-year-old-graft-case/article65758291.ece>

## 21. 9 रिटायर्ड DDA अधिकारी समेत 11 पर भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में दिल्ली के LG ने FIR दर्ज करने के दिए आदेश ([ndtv.in](https://www.ndtv.in)) 11 AUG 2022

दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने 9 साल पुराने वित्तीय अनियमितता के एक मामले में 11 DDA अधिकारियों पर FIR दर्ज करने के आदेश दिए. इन 11 अधिकारियों में से 9 अधिकारी रिटायर हो चुके हैं. इन रिटायर्ड 9 अधिकारियों में तत्कालीन चीफ इंजीनियर, सुपरिटेंडिंग इंजीनियर, एग्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर के अलावा फाइनेंस और एकाउंट्स डिपार्टमेंट के अधिकारी हैं. इसके अलावे दो अधिकारी उस समय के डीडीए के मेंबर फाइनेंस और मेंबर इंजीनियरिंग थे जिन पर कार्रवाई हुई है. उपराज्यपाल ने भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपी इन 11 अधिकारियों की पेंशन पर तत्काल प्रभाव के रोक लगा दी है.

मामला 2013 का है जिसमें आरोप के मुताबिक किंग्सवे कैंप में कोरोनेशन पार्क का अपग्रेडेशन और ब्यूटीफिकेशन होना था. इस प्रोजेक्ट की कीमत शुरुआत में ₹14.24 करोड़ थी जो बाद में बढ़कर ₹28.36 करोड़ हो गई और आगे चलकर इसी के तहत ₹114.83 करोड़ के काम नरेला और धीरपुर जैसी दूसरी जगहों पर बिना किसी मंजूरी के करवा दिए गए. इस सबके चलते करीब 142 करोड़ रुपए सरकारी खजाने से चुकाने पड़ गए.

इस गंभीर अनियमितता के बारे में सीएजी ने 2016 में अपनी रिपोर्ट में इशारा किया था. CAG ने कहा था कि प्रोजेक्ट के लिए मूल कीमत से करीब 9 गुना ज्यादा चुकाए गए. <https://ndtv.in/india/delhi-lt-governor-orders-to-register-fir-in-corruption-case-on-11-including-9-retired-dda-officers-3245795>



## 22. नोएडा में अब लाटरी- इंटरव्यू सिस्टम से नहीं डीडीए की तर्ज पर मिलेंगे प्लॉट- दुकान ([hindi.news18.com](http://hindi.news18.com)) AUGUST 12, 2022

नोएडा. जमीन आवंटन में फर्जीवाड़ा (Fraud) रोकने के लिए नोएडा अथॉरिटी (Noida Authority) ने एक बड़ा कदम उठाया है. अथॉरिटी अब जमीन का आवंटन डीडीए (DDA), दिल्ली की तर्ज पर करेगी. गुरुवार को अथॉरिटी में हुई बोर्ड बैठक के दौरान इस प्रस्ताव पर मुहर लगा दी गई है. अब अथॉरिटी में जमीन आवंटन (Land Allotment) के लिए लाटरी और इंटरव्यू सिस्टम नहीं चलेगा. ऐसा माना जा रहा है कि जमीन आवंटन में सीएजी की कई आपत्तियों के बाद यह फैसला लिया गया है. सूत्रों की मानें तो करीब 30 हजार करोड़ रुपये अथॉरिटी के जमीन आवंटन में फंसे हैं. इसी के चलते अथॉरिटी ने नियमों में बदलाव किया है.

### अब जो ऊंची बोली बोलेगा उसे ही मिलेगा प्लॉट

नोएडा अथॉरिटी के अफसरों की मानें तो जमीन आवंटन के नियमों में बदलाव कर दिया गया है. सीएजी की आपत्तियों पर हुए विचार के बाद अथॉरिटी ने यह फैसला लिया है. अब से रेजिडेंशियल, कमर्शियल, इंडस्ट्रियल, इंस्टीट्यूशनल और आईटी समेत हर तरह की जमीन लेने के लिए नीलामी की तरह से बोली में शामिल होना होगा. आवेदन करने के बाद एक तय तारीख में प्लॉट की बोली लगाई जाएगी.

जो भी आवेदक प्लॉट की सबसे बड़ी बोली बोलेगा प्लॉट उसे आवंटित कर दिया जाएगा. अब इस नियम के बाद प्लॉट छोटा हो या हजारों वर्गमीटर का उसके लिए लाटरी और इंटरव्यू सिस्टम नहीं अपनाया जाएगा. इतना ही नहीं डीडीए की तरह से बोली लगाने वाले को एक साल के भीतर ही प्लॉट या प्लैट की पूरी कीमत अथॉरिटी में जमा करानी होगी.

### डीडीए के यह नियम भी लागू होंगे जमीन आवंटन में

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ऑक्शन के जरिए भूखंड आवंटन हासिल करने वाले आवंटी को निर्धारित अवधि में पूरी राशि एकमुश्त जमा करनी होगी. इस पर भूखंड की कुल कीमत का 2 फीसद छूट के तौर पर दिया जाएगा. ग्रुप हाउसिंग भूखंड के लिए आवंटन योजना में बिल्डर और बायर्स के हितों को ध्यान में रखा जाएगा. इसके लिए स्कीम ब्रोशर में संशोधन किए गए हैं. कंसोर्टियम मेंबर्स को कंपलीशन सर्टिफिकेट लेने तक शत-प्रतिशत अंत धारिता बनाए रखना अनिवार्य होगा.

भूखंड आवंटन की दशा में प्रीमियम के मद में देय समस्त राशि आवंटन की तिथि से 90 दिन के अंदर एकमुश्त जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा. डेवलपर को नोएडा अथॉरिटी के साथ एसक्रो अकाउंट खुलवाना अनिवार्य होगा. इन एसक्रो अकाउंट पर बायर भी नजर रख सकते हैं. आवंटन के पश्चात भूखंडों का उप विभाजन और समामेलन अनुमन्य नहीं किया जाएगा. आवंटी या विकासकर्ता को उनके बायर्स के नाम, आवंटित प्लैट संख्या और एसक्रो अकाउंट में डाले जाने वाली धनराशि का विवरण प्रत्येक 3 महीने में अनिवार्य रूप से प्राधिकरण को उपलब्ध करवाना होगा. <https://hindi.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/noida-now-residential-industrial-plots-will-be-allotted-in-noida-on-the-rules-of-dda-not-by-lottery-and-interview-system-dlnh-4464063.html>

## **SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING**

### **23. What is the Rs 6,000 crore toll tax ‘scam’ in Delhi’s MCD? ([indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)) August 12, 2022**

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday wrote to Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena demanding a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the alleged toll tax scam of Rs 6,000 crore in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has levelled allegations against the MCD that it colluded with two toll tax companies and caused a huge loss to the public exchequer. Sisodia alleged 10 lakh commercial vehicles enter Delhi everyday and tax is collected from them, but does not reach the MCD.

#### **How does MCD collect toll tax?**

Commercial vehicles entering Delhi have to pay between Rs 700 and Rs 1,400 for an Environment Compliance Certificate, and Rs 100 and Rs 2,000 for toll depending on size and category. The MCD is the agency in-charge of collecting toll in Delhi. Toll tax collections are managed by private contractors who make payments as per open tenders to the municipal body.

Of Delhi’s 124 border points, RFID toll collection systems have been installed at 13 major entry points, used by nearly 80-85 per cent of commercial vehicle traffic entering the city.

According to AAP, 10 lakh commercial vehicles from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and other neighbouring cities enter the national capital via the 124 routes every day.

Delhi toll tax scam: What is AAP’s allegation?

Sisodia has alleged a Rs 6,000 crore scam in the collection of toll tax by MCD.

He explained that the MCD awarded a tender to a private company in 2017 for the collection of toll tax, and, as per the contract, the company had to pay Rs 1,200 crore to the MCD every year. “The company paid the full amount to MCD in the first year, but ever since, in connivance with MCD, stopped giving the collected tax to the civic agency. The corporation, which should have cancelled the tender, blacklisted the company and issued a tender to a new company, but has done nothing for the last four years,” he claimed.

Sisodia also alleged that in 2021, the MCD awarded the tender to the sister organisation of the previous company for a less amount. “The company was given relaxation of Rs 83 crore on account of the pandemic,” he said.

#### **What is MCD’s defence?**

The civic body said that in 2017, the contract was awarded to the said company for Rs 1,206 crore per annum for a period of five years. After getting the contract, the company stated that it suffered losses on account of opening the Eastern Peripheral and Western Peripheral, and challenged the issue in the High Court.

A senior official of the MCD said the court ordered authorities to stop toll collection from the free lane, and the company sought compensation for the loss it alleged to have suffered.

“MCD held several rounds of meetings to resolve the matter, and on failure of the company to make due payments, it terminated the contract,” the official said.

“At present, MCD has initiated proceedings for attachment of properties of the company. All legal steps have been initiated against the company and the matter is sub-judice in the High Court,” the official added.

### **What’s behind the new political tussle between AAP and the Delhi L-G?**

The L-G of Delhi has in the recent past suspended several officials of the Delhi government, accusing them of corruption. Last week, L-G Saxena approved the suspension and initiation of disciplinary proceedings for “serious lapses” against 11 officers of the excise department, including the then excise commissioner, over the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

The AAP, with its fresh allegations, seems to be reminding the L-G that while he is taking action against Delhi government officials, he has been ignoring the complaints against the MCD, which has an impression of being corruption ridden. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-politics/delhi-toll-tax-scam-aap-manish-sisodia-mcd-explained-8085669/>

### **24. Corporate tax rate cut leads to Rs 1.84L cr revenue loss in 2 yrs ([tribuneindia.com](https://tribuneindia.com)) Aug 12, 2022**

The central exchequer has lost tax revenue worth nearly Rs 1.84 lakh crore in two financial years due to lower rate of corporate tax announced by the government.

#### **Concessional tax impact**

An analysis of the impact of the concessional tax incentive shows that out of the total corporate returns of income in 2019-20, 1.45 lakh opted for the concessional tax rate involving a total income of Rs 9.33 lakh crore under Section 115BAA and 1,244 have taken the option under Section 115BAB involving a total income of Rs 35.13 crore. Thus, 15.85 per cent of the companies having 62 per cent of the total income have opted for the new tax scheme.

The estimated shortfall due to this move was Rs 87,835 crore in 2019-20 and 96,400 crore in 2020-21, noted a report by a parliamentary panel. The figures for 2021-22 have not been revealed but are estimated to be over Rs 1 lakh crore.

There has also been a decline in the targets of gross and net tax collections at the Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates stage with actual even before the concessional tax rate for corporate was announced. The actual were at a healthy 100.7 per cent above the gross tax collection in 2016-17 and 101.2 per cent above the net tax collection. But these figures declined to 98.6 per cent and 97.9 per cent, respectively, in 2017-18. The intake declined further to 92.5 per cent and 88.7 per cent in 2018-19. It was 92.9 per cent and 90.1 per cent in 2019-20.

While announcing the new tax regime, the government had said it wants to establish a globally competitive business environment for certain domestic companies to attract fresh investment, create employment and give an impetus to the economy. The new tax rates are 22 per cent for existing domestic companies and 15 per cent for newly incorporated domestic companies, which make fresh investment by March 31, 2023, for manufacturing and production. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/corporate-tax-rate-cut-leads-to-1-84l-cr-revenue-loss-in-2-yrs-421163>