

## **NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (24.09.2022 to 26.09.2022)**

**1. डाक विभाग में अधिकारियों ने की धोखाधड़ी:बंद खातों से निकाले गए 9 5 करोड़ रुपए, जांच के बाद 14.5 करोड़ रुपए की हुई रिकवरी (bhaskar.com) 2 5 Sep 2022**

देश के कई राज्यों के डाक विभागों में हजारों बंद पड़े खातों से 95 करोड़ रुपए की विभाग के अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों ने धोखाधड़ी की है। डाक विभाग में करीब ढाई करोड़ बचत खाते इनएक्टिव हो चुके हैं या न्यूनतम रकम न रखने के कारण बंद हैं। इन्हीं खातों में जमा रकम को लेकर जांच में डाक विभाग को अलर्ट किया गया। कहा गया कि बंद खातों में जमा रकम में फ्रॉड हुआ है।

पिछले महीने सामने आई कैग की इस रिपोर्ट के बाद डाक विभाग जांच करा रहा है, जिसमें 14.39 करोड़ की रिकवरी की गई है। इसमें भी करीब 40 लाख रुपए पेनाल्टी और ब्याज का है। अभी 81.64 करोड़ की रिकवरी नहीं हो पाई है। देश में 23 डाक सर्किल हैं। इनमें करीब ढाई करोड़ बंद या निष्क्रिय खातों में से करीब 70 हजार खातों का दिसंबर 2021 तक सेटलमेंट किया गया, जिसमें करीब 123 करोड़ रुपए शामिल हैं।

### **जांच के दौरान यह धोखाधड़ी सामने आई**

पोस्टल स्टाफ ने बंद खातों को लाइव एकाउंट में दिखाया और फेक बैलेंस भरकर फिर से खाते बंद कर दिए। इस तरह पश्चिम बंगाल, हरियाणा, आंध्र प्रदेश, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र के डाकघर के खातों से 62 करोड़ रुपए की हेराफेरी की गई।

डाक सर्किल पंजाब, ओडिशा, तमिलनाडु और आंध्र प्रदेश में फर्जी खाते खोल कर फर्जी एंट्री की गई और इन खातों से 15.98 करोड़ रुपए निकाले गए।

8 सर्किलों में पोस्टल स्टाफ ने नकदी जमा करने आए ग्राहकों के खातों में तो रकम दर्ज की, लेकिन उसे जमा नहीं कराया। 9.16 करोड़ रुपए डकारे।

2 सर्किलों में स्टाफ ने बाहरी लोगों से मिलीभगत कर खाते खुलवाए और उनमें 1.35 करोड़ रुपए का फर्जी जमा दिखाकर उसे निकाल लिया।

4 सर्किलों में स्टाफ ने ग्राहकों के बचत खातों 4 करोड़ रुपए फर्जी दस्तखत और नकली अंगूठे के निशान लगाकर निकाले।

4 सर्किलों में स्टाफ ने ग्राहकों की आईडी और पासवर्ड का नाजायज इस्तेमाल किया और 3 करोड़ रुपए की धांधली कर ली।

2013 में डिजिटलीकरण के दौरान ज्यादा रकम निकाली गई। इसी संबंध में 6 राज्यों में ईडी और सीबीआई को जांच की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है। जांच में पता चला है कि बंद खातों से रकम निकालने का खेल 2013 में डिजिटलीकरण के समय तेज हो गया। तब डाकघरों के 'संचय पोस्ट' सॉफ्टवेयर का डेटा कोर बैंकिंग

ग सोल्यूशन में ट्रांसफर किया गया था। <https://www.bhaskar.com/national/news/95-crore-withdrawn-from-closed-accounts-officers-in-postal-departments-cheated-130359643.html>

## **STATES NEWS ITEMS**

**2. 20 forest divisions in U.P. made fraudulent payments against plantation works: CAG report ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com))** UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

**The registration number of vehicles for which payments were done in the name of tractors were found to be registered as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters and mopeds, the CAG's report revealed**

Uttar Pradesh's 20 forest divisions made fraudulent payment of ₹1.37 crore for various works by mentioning false registration numbers of vehicles using which works were claimed to be executed, a CAG audit report has revealed.

The registration number of vehicles for which payments were done in the name of tractors and excavators were found to be registered as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters and mopeds, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s compliance audit report for the year ended March 2020 revealed.

Accessed by PTI, the report was tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly recently and highlighted the "fraudulent payment against plantation work" by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, among other State government organs.

Citing rules, the CAG said the Uttar Pradesh government provides that payments to contractors for works or supply can be made only by the divisional officer or by an authorised subordinate officer.

No payment should be made until the correctness of the claim, in respect of quantities and rates as well as the quality of work or supply and other necessary factors, has been accepted by an authorised officer, it noted.

"A test-check by Audit (December 2020) of monthly vouchers of payment for various works for the years 2016-17 to 2018-19 in 20 Forest Divisions' revealed that the Divisions had executed work of digging of pits and trenches, soil work, transportation of saplings, cow dung, brick works, watering of plants, etc., for plantation and conservation purposes by using tractors and JCB excavators on contracts," the report stated.

"The payment vouchers contain details of name of the contractor to whom payment was made, registration number of tractor or JCB, etc., through which the works were executed, details of works executed, rates and amount paid against executed works, etc," it noted.

However, it added that the audit verified the tractors or JCBs' registration number mentioned in the payment vouchers with the records of the Uttar Pradesh transport department.

It was noticed that the vehicle registration numbers indicated in the payment vouchers, against which payments were made by the divisional forest officer, were registered as vehicles other

than tractors and excavators viz. motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds and others, the CAG report stated.

“Thus, the works for plantation and conservation purposes, claimed to have been done under vouchers with false tractors or JCBs’ numbers, had actually never taken place and the payment of ₹1.37 crore involved in 1,058 vouchers made to the contractors or individuals was prima facie fraudulent and the amounts so claimed tantamount to embezzlement,” it stated.

The audit reported (in December 2020 and March 2021) the matter to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF).

In its reply in January 2021, the PCCF accepted the audit observation and initiated disciplinary action against the delinquent officials, and added that the works were actually executed while the incorrect vehicles numbers were posted, the CAG said.

Further, the PCCF stated that an inquiry has been set up under senior officers at the headquarters for physical verification and checking of records, it said.

“The audit, while appreciating the course of action taken by the PCCF as per the reply, is of the view that given the serious nature of infraction, appropriate and timely action needs to be taken by the government against the responsible officials for the fraudulent payments and dereliction of duty,” the CAG stated.

“Further, the government may conduct a comprehensive examination of all vouchers of the concerned years in these Divisions for detecting similar fraudulent payments as Audit conducted test check for only selected few months in 20 Divisions,” it said in the report.

In its reply in January, the government had said the 14 officials had been suspended, 137 charge-sheeted and 44 officials had either retired or died while disciplinary proceedings against the remaining were under process, the report added. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/20-forest-divisions-in-up-made-fraudulent-payments-against-plantation-works-cag-report/article65934271.ece>

### **3. '20 forest div in UP made fraudulent payments against plantation works' ([millenniumpost.in](https://www.millenniumpost.in)) 25 Sept 2022**

Noida: Uttar Pradesh's 20 forest divisions made fraudulent payment of Rs 1.37 crore for various works by mentioning false registration numbers of vehicles using which works were claimed to be executed, a CAG audit report has revealed.

The registration number of vehicles for which payments were done in the name of tractors and excavators were found to be registered as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds, etc, the CAG's compliance audit report for the year ended March 2020 revealed.

The report was tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly and highlighted the "fraudulent payment against plantation work" by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, among other state government organs.

Citing rules, the CAG said the Uttar Pradesh government provides that payments to contractors for works or supply can be made only by the divisional officer or by an authorised subordinate officer.

No payment should be made until the correctness of the claim, in respect of quantities and rates as well as the quality of work or supply and other necessary factors, has been accepted by an authorised officer, it noted.

"A test-check by Audit of monthly vouchers of payment for various works for the years 2016-17 to 2018-19 in 20 Forest Divisions' revealed that the Divisions had executed work of digging of pits and trenches, soil work, transportation of saplings, cow dung, brick works, watering of plants, etc., for plantation and conservation purposes by using tractors and JCB excavators on contracts. The payment vouchers contain details of name of the contractor to whom payment was made, registration number of tractor or JCB, etc., through which the works were executed, details of works executed, rates and amount paid against executed works, etc," it noted. <http://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/20-forest-div-in-up-made-fraudulent-payments-against-plantation-works-494035>

#### **4. UP: CAG Report Reveals Several Forest Divisions Made Fraudulent Payments against Plantation Works ([news.abplive.com](https://www.abplive.com)) 25 Sept 2022**

A Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) audit report revealed that Uttar Pradesh's 20 forest divisions made fraudulent payments of Rs 1.37 crore for various works by mentioning false registration numbers of vehicles on which work was claimed to have been completed. The registration number of vehicles for which payments were made in the name of tractors and excavators was discovered to be registered as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds, and so on, according to the audit report for the fiscal year ending March 2020.

The report, obtained by news agency PTI, was recently tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly and highlighted "fraudulent payment against plantation work" by the Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, among other state government organs.

According to the CAG, the Uttar Pradesh government requires payments to contractors for work or supplies to be made only by the divisional officer or an authorised subordinate officer, citing rules.

It stated that no payment should be made until an authorised officer has accepted the correctness of the claim in terms of quantities and rates, as well as the quality of work or supply and other necessary factors.

"A test-check by Audit (December 2020) of monthly vouchers of payment for various works in 20 Forest Divisions' revealed that the Divisions had executed work of digging pits and trenches, soil work, transportation of saplings, cow dung, brickworks, watering of plants, etc., for plantation and conservation purposes by using tractors and JCB excavators on contracts," according to the report.

"The payment vouchers contain details such as the name of the contractor to whom payment was made, the registration number of the tractor or JCB, etc., through which the works were executed, the details of the works executed, the rates and amount paid against executed works, and so on," the report stated.

However, it was added that the audit checked the registration numbers of the tractors or JCBs mentioned in the payment vouchers against the Uttar Pradesh transport department's records.

According to the CAG report, it was discovered that the vehicle registration numbers indicated in the payment vouchers, against which the divisional forest officer made payments, were registered as vehicles other than tractors and excavators, such as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds, and so on.

"Thus, the works for plantation and conservation purposes, claimed to have been done under vouchers with false tractors or JCBs' numbers, had actually never taken place," it stated. "The payment of Rs 1.37 crore involved in 1,058 vouchers made to the contractors or individuals was prima facie fraudulent, and the amounts so claimed tantamount to embezzlement."

The audit reported the issue to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (in December 2020 and March 2021).

The PCCF accepted the audit observation and initiated disciplinary action against the delinquent officials in its response in January 2021, the CAG said, adding that the works were actually completed while the incorrect vehicle numbers were posted.

Furthermore, the PCCF stated that an inquiry had been established under the supervision of senior officers at the headquarters for physical verification and checking of records.

"While appreciating the PCCF's response, the audit believes that, given the serious nature of the infraction, appropriate and timely action by the government against the responsible officials for fraudulent payments and dereliction of duty is required," the CAG stated.

"Further, the government may conduct a comprehensive examination of all vouchers of the concerned years in these Divisions for detecting similar fraudulent payments as Audit conducted a test to check for only selected few months in 20 Divisions," it said in the report.

In its reply in January, the government had said the 14 officials had been suspended, 137 charge-sheeted, and 44 officials had either retired or died while disciplinary proceedings against the remaining were under process, the report added. <https://news.abplive.com/news/india/up-cag-report-reveals-several-forest-divisions-made-fraudulent-payments-against-plantation-works-1555229>

## 5. उत्तर प्रदेश में 20 वन संभागों ने वृक्षारोपण कार्यों के खिलाफ किया फर्जी भुगतान: कैग रिपोर्ट ([navbharattimes.indiatimes.com](https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com)) 25 Sept 2022

नोएडा: उत्तर प्रदेश के 20 वन संभागों में वाहनों के फर्जी पंजीकरण नंबर का उल्लेख करते हुये विभिन्न कार्यों के लिये 1.37 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान किया गया। नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) की एक रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा किया गया है।

ट्रैक्टर और खुदाई करने वाली मशीन के नाम पर जिन वाहनों का भुगतान किया गया था, उनका पंजीकरण नंबर मोटरसाइकिल, जीप, स्कूटर, मोपेड आदि के रूप में पंजीकृत है। मार्च 2020 में समाप्त हुए वर्ष के लिये कैग की रिपोर्ट में इसका खुलासा हुआ है।

रिपोर्ट को हाल में उत्तर प्रदेश विधानसभा के पटल पर रखा गया था। रिपोर्ट की प्रति सामचार एजेंसी पीटी आई-भाषा के पास भी है।

नियमों का हवाला देते हुए, कैग ने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार यह प्रावधान करती है कि ठेकेदारों को काम या आपूर्ति के लिए भुगतान केवल संभागीय अधिकारी या अधिकृत अधीनस्थ अधिकारी द्वारा किया जा सकता है।

कैग ने कहा कि कोई भुगतान तब तक नहीं किया जाना चाहिए, जब तक कि मात्रा और दरों के साथ-साथ काम या आपूर्ति की गुणवत्ता और अन्य आवश्यक कारकों के संबंध में दावे की सत्यता एक अधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा मंजूर नहीं की जाती है।

इसने कहा,

“भुगतान वाउचर में ठेकेदार का नाम (जिसे भुगतान किया गया), ट्रैक्टर या जेसीबी (खुदाई करने की मशीन) का पंजीकरण नंबर (जिसके माध्यम से कार्य निष्पादित किया गया), निष्पादित कार्यों का विवरण, निष्पादित कार्यों के लिए भुगतान की गई दरों और राशि आदि का विवरण होता है।”

इसमें कहा गया है कि ऑडिट के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन विभाग के रिकॉर्ड के साथ भुगतान 'वाउचर' में दर्ज ट्रैक्टर या जेसीबी के पंजीकरण नंबर का सत्यापन कराया गया।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इसमें यह पता चला कि भुगतान 'वाउचर' में उल्लेख किये गए वाहन पंजीकरण संख्या, जिसके लिये संभागीय वन अधिकारी की ओर से भुगतान किया गया था, ट्रैक्टर और उत्खनक के अलावा अन्य वाहनों के रूप में पंजीकृत थे। इसमें कहा गया है कि ये मोटरसाइकिल, जीप, स्कूटर, मोपेड आदि के पंजीकरण नंबर थे। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/uttar-pradesh/noida/20-forest-divisions-in-uttar-pradesh-made-fake-payment-cag-report-against-plantation-works/articleshow/94437516.cms>

## 6. Gujarat: Ahead of elections, parties continue to promise freebies even as state's finances sink ([freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in)) September 24, 2022

**The CAG's 'State Finances Audit Report' as on Mar 31, 2021, warned that Gujarat is walking into a debt trap, for the state will have to repay as much as Rs1,67,000 crore, or 61% of this huge public debt, in the next seven years.**

Ahmedabad: While the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress are busy promising more freebies and the ruling BJP is succumbing to demands from various state employee associations on the path of agitation, few care to look at the legacy of astronomical public debt already created by the state government.

**The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG), which was released on Mar 31, states that the public debt of the Gujarat government stood at Rs 3,08,000 crore as**

of Mar 31, 2021, almost 50% more than the state's annual budget of Rs2,40,000 crore for 2022-23.

That is not all. The CAG's 'State Finances Audit Report' as on Mar 31, 2021, warned that Gujarat is walking into a debt trap, for the state will have to repay as much as Rs1,67,000 crore, or 61% of this huge public debt, in the next seven years.

More alarmingly, Gujarat's public debt is projected to touch Rs4,50,000 crore by the end of 2024-25 – less than three years from now. And that without accounting for the poll goodies.

More startling is that the CAG report avers that while Gujarat's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.19% between 2016 and 2021, outstanding public debt shot up at a CAGR of 11.49%.

The Gujarat government has been patting its back for being the only “revenue-plus” state in the country, but the CAG has this to say: “The state achieved ‘zero’ revenue-deficit targets in 2011-12 and reported a revenue surplus thereafter till 2019-20. The state turned revenue-deficit for the first time in 2020-21, with a deficit of Rs22,548 crore, against the target of a revenue surplus of Rs789 crore proposed in the medium-term fiscal policy statement.”

In an ideal fiscal situation, a government goes in for public borrowings to invest in creation of long-term and permanent capital assets – equivalent to an individual taking loans to buy a house or a motor vehicle – but not for its revenue expenditure or running the day-to-day government. These expenses are usually met from tax collections.

In reference to financial year 2021, the CAG stated, “Since Gujarat turned revenue deficit for the first time since 2011-12, this year borrowed funds were used for revenue expenditure as well as capital expenditure and repayment of debt.” Simply put, the state took loans to repay loans, meet day-to-day expenses and also capital expenditure.

In this case, the CAG also found that in FY2021, the Gujarat government underreported its revenue deficit by as much as Rs10,997 crore. “The state's actual revenue deficit would stand at Rs33,525 crore during 2020-21, if the items of shortfall in the state government's contribution to consolidated sinking fund, non-discharge of interest liabilities, and incorrect classification are factored in,” the audit watchdog pointed out.

The CAG thus indicated some smart fudging by the government, stating that the government passed off a part of the revenue expenditure as capital and off-budget works.

For perspective, when the BJP first came to power in Gujarat in 1995, the state government's public debt stood at Rs10,000 crore. It had shot up to Rs45,301 crore in 2001-02 when Narendra Modi took over as Chief Minister. In 2014, when Anandiben Patel came in as Chief Minister after Modi became the Prime Minister, Gujarat's public debt was Rs2,21,000 crore. <https://www.freepressjournal.in/india/gujarat-ahead-of-elections-parties-continue-to-promise-freebies-even-as-states-finances-sink>

## **7. Forest Land Given to Adani Firm Wrongly Classified, Costs Gujarat Govt Rs 58 Cr ([thequint.com](https://www.thequint.com)) September 23, 2022**

The inappropriate classification of forest land transferred to Adani Chemicals in Kutch for Mundra Port and SEZ by Gujarat's forest and environment department led to the company paying Rs 58.64 crore less to the state government, The Indian Express has reported.

The discrepancy came to light when the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) tabled its fifth report before the Gujarat Assembly on Wednesday, 21 September.

In its report, PAC, headed by Congress MLA Punja Vansh noted "undue" benefit of Rs 58.64 crore due to inappropriate classification of land, citing an audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

According to the PAC report, the Central government had given an in-principle approval to Adani Chemicals Ltd for the allocation of 1,840 hectares and 168.42 hectares of land in Mundra and Dhrab villages respectively of Kutch district.

However, a new proposal was presented to the Centre in January 2009, the approval for which came within a month.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court had, in a judgment dated 28 March 2008, classified the forests of India in six categories and also fixed their net present value (NPV). According to the same judgment, the ones in Kutch were classified under Eco Class II (with NPV of Rs 7.30 lakh per hectare) and Eco Class IV (with NPV of Rs 4.30 lakh per hectare).

In December 2008, the Conservator of Forests, Bhuj, had identified the land in question as a mudflat and, in his inspection report, observed that the creek was full of mangroves.

Despite this, the PAC report claims, the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Kutch East) had considered the land in question to be falling under the Eco Class IV category and accordingly, recovered Rs 87.97 crore as NPV for the total 2008.42 hectare of forest land allotted to the company.

Furthermore, the PAC committee noted that the state forest department, in a written reply to the committee, had submitted that the land in question indeed falls under the Eco Class IV category.

The committee believes that instead of recovering NPV as per Eco Class II from Messrs Adani for the change of purpose of forest land for Mundra Port and SEZ, the department has recovered NPV as per Eco Class IV. This decision of the department has resulted in Rs 58.67 crore less recovery to the government.

### **Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Report**

PAC has now sought to recover NPV as per Eco Class II from the company within three months, and recommended that action be taken against officials responsible for the inappropriate classification of land. <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/wrong-classification-forest-land-adani-chemicals-loss-gujarat-govt-rs-58-crore#read-more>



## 8. गुजरात: चुनाव से पहले, राज्य के वित्त डूबने के बावजूद पार्टियां मुफ्त का वादा करती रहती हैं ([jantaserishta.com](http://jantaserishta.com)) 24 Sep 2022

आम आदमी पार्टी (आप) और कांग्रेस जहां और अधिक मुफ्त देने का वादा करने में व्यस्त हैं और सत्तारूढ़ भाजपा आंदोलन के रास्ते पर विभिन्न राज्य कर्मचारी संघों की मांगों के आगे झुक रही है, वहीं पहले से ही बनाए गए खगोलीय सार्वजनिक ऋण की विरासत को देखने के लिए कुछ लोग परवाह करते हैं। राज्य सरकार द्वारा।

भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की नवीनतम रिपोर्ट, जो 31 मार्च को जारी की गई थी, में कहा गया है कि गुजरात सरकार का सार्वजनिक ऋण 31 मार्च, 2021 तक 3,08,000 करोड़ रुपये था, जो लगभग 50% अधिक था। 2022-23 के लिए राज्य के 2,40,000 करोड़ रुपये के वार्षिक बजट की तुलना में।

यही सब नहीं है। 31 मार्च, 2021 को सीएजी की 'स्टेट फाइनेंस ऑडिट रिपोर्ट' ने चेतावनी दी थी कि गुजरात कर्ज के जाल में फंस रहा है, क्योंकि राज्य को 1,67,000 करोड़ रुपये या इस विशाल सार्वजनिक ऋण का 61 फीसदी चुकाना होगा। अगले सात साल।

अधिक चिंताजनक रूप से, गुजरात का सार्वजनिक ऋण 2024-25 के अंत तक 4,50,000 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है - अब से तीन साल से भी कम समय में। और वह भी पोली गुड्स को ध्यान में रखे बिना।

अधिक चौंकाने वाली बात यह है कि सीएजी की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि जहां गुजरात का सकल राज्य घरेलू उत्पाद (जीएसडीपी) 2016 और 2021 के बीच 9.19% की चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (सीएजीआर) से बढ़ा, वहीं बकाया सार्वजनिक ऋण 11.49% की सीएजीआर से बढ़ा।

गुजरात सरकार देश में एकमात्र "राजस्व से अधिक" राज्य होने के लिए अपनी पीठ थपथपा रही है, लेकिन सीएजी का कहना है: "राज्य ने 2011-12 में 'शून्य' राजस्व-घाटे के लक्ष्य हासिल किए और राजस्व अधिशेष की सूचना दी उसके बाद 2019-20 तक। मध्यम अवधि के राजकोषीय नीति वक्तव्य में प्रस्तावित 789 करोड़ रुपये के राजस्व अधिशेष के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले, राज्य ने 2020-21 में पहली बार 22,548 करोड़ रुपये के घाटे के साथ राजस्व-घाटा किया।

एक आदर्श वित्तीय स्थिति में, एक सरकार लंबी अवधि और स्थायी पूंजीगत संपत्ति के निर्माण में निवेश करने के लिए सार्वजनिक उधार लेती है - एक घर या मोटर वाहन खरीदने के लिए ऋण लेने वाले व्यक्ति के बराबर - लेकिन अपने राजस्व व्यय या चलाने के लिए नहीं दिन-प्रतिदिन की सरकार। ये खर्च आमतौर पर कर संग्रह से पूरा किया जाता है।

वित्तीय वर्ष 2021 के संदर्भ में, सीएजी ने कहा, "चूंकि गुजरात 2011-12 के बाद पहली बार राजस्व घाटा बना है, इस वर्ष उधार ली गई धनराशि का उपयोग राजस्व व्यय के साथ-साथ पूंजीगत व्यय और ऋण के पुनर्भुगतान के लिए किया गया था। "सीधे शब्दों में कहें, तो राज्य ने ऋण चुकाने के लिए, दिन-प्रतिदिन के खर्चों को पूरा करने के लिए और पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए भी ऋण लिया।

इस मामले में,

CAG ने यह भी पाया कि FY2021 में, गुजरात सरकार ने अपने राजस्व घाटे को 10,997 करोड़ रुपये से कम बताया। "राज्य का वास्तविक राजस्व घाटा 2020-

21 के दौरान 33,525 करोड़ रुपये होगा, अगर राज्य सरकार के समेकित सिंकिंग फंड में योगदान, ब्याज दे नदारियों के गैर-

निर्वहन और गलत वर्गीकरण की वस्तुओं को इसमें शामिल किया गया है," ऑडिट चौकीदार ने इशारा किया।

सीएजी ने इस प्रकार सरकार द्वारा कुछ चतुर धोखाधड़ी का संकेत दिया, जिसमें कहा गया कि सरकार ने राजस्व व्यय का एक हिस्सा पूंजी और ऑफ-बजट कार्यों के रूप में पारित कर दिया।

परिप्रेक्ष्य के लिए, जब भाजपा पहली बार 1995 में गुजरात में सत्ता में आई, तो राज्य सरकार का सार्वजनिक ऋण 10,000 करोड़ रुपये था। 2001-

02 में जब नरेंद्र मोदी ने मुख्यमंत्री का पद संभाला तो यह बढ़कर 45,301 करोड़ रुपये हो गया था। 2014 में, जब मोदी के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद आनंदीबेन पटेल मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में आईं, तो गुजरात का सार्वजनिक ऋण 2,21,000 करोड़ रुपये था। <https://jantaserishta.com/local/gujarat/gujarat-ahead-of-elections-despite-states-finances-sinking-parties-keep-promising-freebies-1597854>

## **9. Nagaland failed to submit Rs 600 cr utilisation certificates for 251 projects: CAG ([ptinews.com](http://ptinews.com), [eastmojo.com](http://eastmojo.com), [print.in](http://print.in)) 24th September 2022**

Kohima: The Nagaland government has not submitted utilisation certificates (UCs) for 251 projects worth Rs 609.07 crore over 10 financial years, said a CAG report.

The State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for the year ended March 31, 2021, tabled in the just-concluded session of the Nagaland assembly by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, made the revelation.

As on March 2021, 173 UCs for projects worth Rs 396.47 crore were due for submission from 2011-12 to 2019-20, while 2020-21 had the highest outstanding of 78 UCs for projects worth Rs 212.60 crore, the CAG stated.

Non-submission of UCs means that the authorities have not explained how funds were spent over the years while there is no assurance that the intended objectives of providing these funds have been achieved, it said.

The CAG said that the high pendency of UCs is fraught with the risk of misappropriation of funds, while the state would also lose out on central funds.

The major defaulting departments were Rural Development — Rs 184.35 crore, Planning and Coordination — 166.54 crore, and Education — Rs 73.65 crore.

<https://www.ptinews.com/news/east/nagaland-failed-to-submit-rs-600-cr-utilisation-certificates-for-251-projects-cag/423143.html>

## **10. Nagaland failed to submit utilisation certificates of Rs 600 crore for over 250 projects: CAG ([nenow.in](https://nenow.in)) 25 September 2022**

KOHIMA: The Nagaland government has failed to submit utilisation certificates (UCs) for 251 projects worth Rs 609.07 crore.

This was revealed by the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) in a report.

The CAG stated that the Nagaland govern failed to submit UCs for projects spanning over 10 financial years.

As on March 2021, 173 UCs for projects worth Rs 396.47 crore were due for submission from 2011-12 to 2019-20, while 2020-21 had the highest outstanding of 78 UCs for projects worth Rs 212.60 crore, the CAG stated.

The CAG stated that non-submission of utilisation certificates raises the risk of funds being misappropriated.

Non-submission of UCs by Nagaland, might also result in the state losing out on central funds.

The major defaulting departments were Rural Development — Rs 184.35 crore, Planning and Coordination — 166.54 crore, and Education — Rs 73.65 crore. <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/nagaland/nagaland-failed-to-submit-utilisation-certificates-rs-600-crore-250-projects-cag.html>

## **11. CAG exposes INR 243.98 crore misappropriation by departments ([easternmirrornagaland.com](https://easternmirrornagaland.com)) September 23, 2022**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has detected 29 cases of misappropriation, losses and thefts involving government money of INR 243.98 crore in at least 12 state government departments.

The state finances audit report of the CAG for the year ended March 31, 2021, stated, a copy of which was tabled by the chief minister at the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly that concluded on September 22.

Among the departments, CAG revealed that School Education topped with two cases amounting to INR 82.80 crore. This was followed by PWD (R&B and Mechanical) with five cases of misappropriation, losses, and theft of government materials amounting to INR 42.32 crore. Various departments with five cases had cost up to INR 40.03 crore, while the Power department amounted to INR 25.48 crore misappropriation, losses, and theft of government materials for one case. Planning and Coordination involved INR 20.23 crore with one case, while the Health and Family Welfare amounted to INR 13.70 crore for four cases. PHED cost INR 5.06 (2 cases), Tourism (1 case) – INR 5 crore, Municipal Affairs (2 cases) – INR 4.11 crore, Rural department (4 cases) -INR 3.21 crore, Land Records and Survey (1 case) – INR 1.24 crore, and Taxes with INR 0.80 crore for a case.

The CAG further stated the final action is pending. Out of 29, five cases involving INR 18.94 crore were reportedly pending in the court of law.

As per the information furnished by the Nagaland Lokayukta, Directorate of Investigation, Nagaland, there are four cases of loss to the government due to theft, misappropriations, and loss of government materials involving INR 160 crore out of which an amount of INR 4.35 crore has been recovered. <https://easternmirrornagaland.com/cag-exposes-inr-243-98-crore-misappropriation-by-departments/>

## **12. CAG Report: Undischarged liabilities in National Pension System in Nagaland** ([morungexpress.com](http://morungexpress.com)) September 23, 2022

Kohima: The expenditure during the year on 'Pension and other Retirement Benefits' to state government employees recruited on or before December 31, 2009 was Rs 1,764.17 crore which was 15.96% of total revenue expenditure of Rs 11,052.06 crore.

This was stated in the State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 2021, tabled at the 12th session of 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima on September 22.

State Government employees appointed on or after January 1, 2010 are covered under the National Pension System (NPS), which is a defined contributory pension scheme.

This is the Report No 1 of the year 2022.

All India Service officers are covered under the scheme with effect from January 1, 2004.

In terms of the Scheme, employees contribute 10 per cent of their basic pay plus dearness allowances which the State Government is required to match with 14 per cent of the basic pay plus dearness allowances (with effect from April 1, 2019).

Both the employees and government contributions are transferred to the designated fund manager through the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)/ Trustee Bank.

The report stated that the subscription received from employees is credited to MH-8342-117 'Defined Contributory Pension Scheme (DCPS)' for Government servants. The State Government follows the accounting procedure while providing the employer's matching contribution towards the fund (MH-8342-117 employer contribution) by debiting to MH-2071 Pensions and Other Retirement Benefits.

Total number of employees under NPS as of March 31, 2020 was 26,395 which increased to 27,432 as of March 31, 2021.

Out of these 27,432 employees under NPS, 1,540 employees have been allotted Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAM as of March 31, 2021).

During the year 2020-21, total subscription received from NPS Employees was Rs 157.41 crore, the report stated.

Against this, the State Government contributed Rs 82.44 crore and credited Rs 239.85 crore (Employees' contribution Rs 157.41 crore and Government contribution Rs 78.14 crore and interest of Rs 4.30 crore) to MH-8342-117 DCPS.

Thus, short-contribution by the State Government of Rs 142.23 crore towards DCPS has understated fiscal deficit and overstated revenue surplus to that extent.

The report stated that the State Government transferred only Rs 224.59 crore to NSDL/ Trustee Bank resulting in shortfall of Rs157.49 crore (short Government contribution of Rs 142.23 crore and less transfer of Rs 15.26 crore of deposit already collected).

As on March 31, 2021, Rs 185.61 crore is outstanding under the MH-8342-117 DCPS which had not been transferred to NSDL.

Thus, uncollected, unmatched and un-transferred amounts, with accrued interest represent outstanding liabilities under the Scheme, the report stated. <https://morungexpress.com/cag-report-undischarged-liabilities-in-national-pension-system-in-nagaland>

### **13. CAG Report: Service sector major contributor of GSDP ([morungexpress.com](https://morungexpress.com)) 23 September 2022**

Kohima: The State's Gross State Domestic Products (GSDP) decreased by Rs 233.10 crore (0.76 per cent) from Rs 29, 535.93 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 29, 312.83 crore in 2020-21.

This was stated in the State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 2021, tabled at the 12th session of 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima on September 22.

The report stated that during the last five years, there was a steady increase in GSDP from Rs 21,722.45 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 29,535.93 crore in 2019-20.

The GSDP negative growth rate for Nagaland (-0.76 per cent) was higher than the all India GDP growth rate (-2.97 per cent) in 2020-21.

Service sector was the major contributor of GSDP during the year with 55.57 per cent.

Agriculture Sector was the second largest contributor with 30.70 per cent while Industry Sector (10.97 per cent) and Taxes on products - Subsidies on products (3 per cent) were third and fourth respectively.

During 2020-21, the State had a Revenue surplus of Rs. 375.37 crore which was 1.28 per cent of GSDP. Fiscal deficit was Rs 1,300.94 crore during 2020-21 which was 4.44 per cent of GSDP and primary deficit was Rs 444.17 crore, 1.52 per cent of GSDP.

The State's Revenue Receipts (Rs 11,427.43 crore) increased by 0.04 per cent (Rs 4.14 crore) over the previous year (Rs 11,423.29 crore), mainly due to increase in Own Tax Revenue (6.73 per cent) and State's share in Union Taxes and Duties (4.35 per cent).

The State's Own Tax Revenue (Rs 1,022.74 crore) increased by 6.73 per cent over the previous year (Rs 958.23 crore).

State's share of Union Taxes and Duties (Rs 3,409.25 crore) in comparison to the previous year Rs 3,267.08 crore) increased by Rs 142.17 crore (4.35 per cent).

Revenue Expenditure was Rs 11,052.06 crore and it decreased by 5.03 per cent (Rs 584.96 crore) over the previous year (Rs.11,637.02 crore).

### **State's Revenue**

The State's Revenue Deficit in previous year turned into Revenue Surplus, which was Rs 2375.37 crore for the year, mainly due to decrease in Revenue Expenditure (5.03 per cent) and marginal increase in Revenue Receipt (0.04 per cent), according to the report.

Capital Expenditure which was Rs 1,671.93 crore for the year, increased by 38.60 per cent (Rs 465.61 crore) over the previous year's expenditure of Rs 21,206.32 crore.

It was mainly due to increase in capital outlay under General Services (147.16 per cent) and Economic Services (29.22 per cent).

### **State's Total Expenditure**

The State's Total Expenditure for the year, which was Rs 12,729.60 crore, decreased by 0.96 per cent (Rs 123.00 crore) over the previous year (Rs 12,852.60 crore).

It was mainly due to decrease in Revenue Expenditure (Rs 584.96 crore) offset by increase in Capital Expenditure (Rs 465.61 crore).

The State's Fiscal Deficit (Rs 1,300.94 crore) decreased by 8.91 per cent (Rs 127.28 crore) as compared to previous year (Rs 1,428.22 crore).

The Government was successful in maintaining Revenue Surplus as projected in FRBM Act during the year but the Fiscal Deficit-GSDP ratio and Outstanding Debt-GSDP ratio were above the ceilings prescribed under the Act, the report stated.

Based on the result of examination of misclassification during post audit, the Revenue Surplus would reduce from Rs 375.37 crore to Rs 186.19 crore and Fiscal Deficit would increase from Rs 21,300.94 crore to Rs 1,451.96 crore.

### **Recommendations**

The State Government needs to keep up the trend of Own Tax Revenue collection achieved during 2020-21 by focusing on other potential areas, apart from State Goods and Services Tax to have a sustained increase in Own Tax Revenues.

The State Government needs to make efforts to achieve the projections on deficit and debt parameters, made in the Nagaland FRBM Act. <https://morungexpress.com/cag-report-service-sector-major-contributor-of-gsdp>

## **14. NVCO appeals for appointment of Lokayukta in Nagaland ([morungexpress.com](https://morungexpress.com)) 25 September 2022**

Dimapur: The state's highest and most powerful institute – 'Lokayukta' is continuously functioning in total violation of the Nagaland Lokayukta Act, 2017, the Nagaland Voluntary Consumers' Organisation (NVCO) said on Sunday.

In this connection, the NVCO Press & Media Cell issued a press release highlighting the series of events that led to the appointment of a Lokayukta in Nagaland and the subsequent

resignation of the Lokayukta in 2021 citing ‘unpleasant environment circumstances’ and ‘hostile environment.’

It also pointed out that the Upa-Lokayukta Mayang Lima was one of the candidates who contested on the NDPP ticket during the last Nagaland Legislative Assembly Elections

In the release, NVCO President Kezhokhoto Savi, a law practitioner, highlighted the relevant provisions of the Nagaland Lokayukta Act, 2017, and said that the state government had constituted a Search Committee consisting of Chief Secretary and Advocate General of Nagaland after the resignation of the former Nagaland Lokayukta. “However, instead of appointing Nagaland Lokayukta within six month the state government moved for amendment of Nagaland Lokayukta Act, 2017 just to keep the said post vacant for a longer period i.e. one year instead of six-months,” it pointed out.

Stating that the Lokayukta is a ‘great check on corruption’ specifically among public servants, the NVCO stated that in Nagaland, “the corrupt practices includes abuse of power, nepotism, bribery, extortion, embezzlement, fraud, etc.” It also underscored various “peculiar corrupt practices” such as deduction of commissions from development project funds in the name of party funds and higher offices, appointing non-government employees to the rank of commissioners, secretaries/joint secretaries/PRO/Media officer/assistant, etc., appointing several non-legislator to hold cabinet rank as advisors, bringing back retired employees to departments as ‘Consultant,’ backdoor appointment, misuse of public funds and properties, drawing monthly salaries without attending offices, fund-raising by way of asking donation, selling various commodities, at an exorbitant rate, drawing the full amount of project fund without completing the work, etc.

Another concern it highlighted was the detection of misappropriated funds by several departments in the CAG report tabled before the session of Nagaland Legislative Assembly; “but no action is being taken in the court of PAC which consisted of legislators.”

In this connection, it said that during the recent 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly session, a report by the CAG for the year ending March 31, 2018 stated the state government has “incorrectly used the funds that belong to its employees” under the National Pension Scheme (NPS), and that the Chief Minister of Nagaland who holds finance portfolio presented Rs 365.33 crore deficit.

The CAG Report detected anomalies in various government departments which include the misappropriation of Rs 215.89 crore by 18 government departments. The CAG had also urged the state government to lodge First Information Report (FIR) in all the cases of misappropriation and loss to the government so as to ensure that timely action was taken.

Further, it said that the latest CAG report had highlighted that “Nagaland failed to submit Rs 600 crores UCs for 251 projects” and the CAG said that the high, pendency of UCs (utilisation certificate) is fraught with the risk of misappropriation of funds, which would lead the state to lose out on central funds.

Stating that the major defaulting departments were Rural Development with Rs 184.35 crore; Planning and Coordination with Rs 166.54 crore, and education at Rs 73.65 crore, the NVCO appealed to the public to remain a watch dog on the state government’s action. The biggest

upset, it said, was “how long the PAC would remain ineffective/fruitless towards corrupt practices.”

Accordingly the NVCO said that the institution of the Lokayukta “has to be revived urgently as the rates and level of corruption charges in Nagaland is very high, be it in the government’s employment sector or in its financial transactions.”

The CAG of India after an audit, had expressed grave concern over recurrent cases of excess and fraudulent withdrawal in the finance department. It was disheartening to learn that Nagaland was among the worst performing states and UTs as per the assessment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index & Dashboard 2020-21 where it is tabulated annually by NITI Aayog in order to evaluate the progress of States and Union territories on the basis of social, economic and environment criteria, it said.

Further, it said that the ‘one year’ timeline for appointing a new Lokayukta in the state expired on February 5, 2022. “Even after the expiry of one year the present Upa-Lokayukta is still holding and discharging the powers of Nagaland Lokayukta in total violation of Nagaland Lokayukta Act.”

In the selection of Nagaland Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta in Nagaland, the NVCO cautioned the state government “not to commit the same mistake while selecting a person for Nagaland Lokayukta or Upa-Lokayukta as it would amount to playing with the highest institution in the state which is in dire need to check the corrupt public servants and punish them.”

The NVCO further cautioned politicians “not to lobby for their own candidate if at all they support the institution to truly function as per the Act.”

It further appealed to the public to come forward to voice for strong Lokayukta in Nagaland so that the right person with integrity and a willing heart to truly curb corruption would be appointed. <https://morungexpress.com/nvco-appeals-for-appointment-of-lokayukta-in-nagaland>

## 15. नागालैंड सरकार 600 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र जमा करने में विफल: CAG ([dailynews360.patrika.com](http://dailynews360.patrika.com)) September 24, 2022

कोहिमा: नागालैंड सरकार 609.07 करोड़ रुपये की 251 परियोजनाओं के लिए उपयोगिता प्रमाणपत्र (यूसी) जमा करने में विफल रही है.

इस बात का खुलासा नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) ने एक रिपोर्ट में किया है। कैग ने कहा कि नागालैंड सरकार 10 वित्तीय वर्षों से अधिक की परियोजनाओं के लिए यूसी जमा करने में विफल रही।

मार्च 2021 तक, 396.47 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं के लिए 173 यूसी 2011-12 से 2019-20 तक जमा करने के लिए थे, जबकि 2020-21 में 212.60 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं के लिए 78 यूसी का उच्चतम बकाया था, सीएजी ने कहा।

कैग ने कहा कि उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र जमा नहीं करने से धन के दुरुपयोग का खतरा बढ़ जाता है। नागालैंड द्वारा यूसी जमा नहीं करने से भी राज्य को केंद्रीय निधि से हाथ धोना पड़ सकता है। प्रमुख चूक कर



ने वाले विभाग ग्रामीण विकास - 184.35 करोड़ रुपये, योजना और समन्वय - 166.54 करोड़, और शिक्षा - 73 .65 करोड़ रुपये थे। <https://dailynews360.patrika.com/nagaland/nagaland-failed-to-submit-utilization-certificate-of-rs-600-crore-for-over-250-projects-cag-117602.html>

**16. Karnataka government allotted multiple homes to same families: CAG ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com)) SEP 25 2022**

BENGALURU: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its recently tabled report on the performance audit of housing schemes for urban poor, said affordable housing scheme implementation in is fraught with faults.

One of the serious errors committed by the state government is providing housing sites to multiple members of the same family of beneficiaries.

As per Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana guidelines, a beneficiary family consists of a husband, wife, unmarried son, and/or unmarried daughters. An adult earning member (irrespective of marital status) could be treated as a separate household if he/she does not own a pucca house in his or her name in any part of India.

Further, in the case of selecting more than one adult earning member per household as beneficiary, eligibility criteria needed to be assessed independently, irrespective of the eligibility of the head of the family.

However, the CAG audit found that in 1,457 households, more than one member of the same family had availed the benefit. In these cases, benefits were provided to other members based on eligibility of the head of the household. The total loss to the exchequer due to this gaffe alone was placed at Rs 12.7 crore.

While the government responded to the CAG, citing that they considered multiple members of the same family in 1,457 cases as separate entities who did not own a pucca house anywhere else in the country, the pointed to nonassessment of economic eligibility criteria of additional members independently.

The CAG said despite PMAY norms mandating that housing provided under the scheme must be registered in the name of the female head of the family, or jointly in the name of both husband and wife, in 36% of the housing provided, the male heads were registered as owners.

The state, as on March 2021, had started construction of 5.1 lakh dwelling units, for which registrations were completed. In September 2021, the government said under state sector schemes which were dovetailed with PMAY, houses were allotted in the name of the male head of the family. But the CAG noted: "Reply was not acceptable as state schemes which were dovetailed with PMAY and received central aid, had to follow PMAY norms." <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/karnataka-government-allotted-multiple-homes-to-same-families-cag/articleshow/94427059.cms>

## 17. Bengaluru Paradox: Floods go hand in hand with groundwater depletion ([ianslive.in](https://ianslive.in)) SEP 25 2022

The city of Bengaluru is a victim of a paradoxical situation - urban flooding on one hand and depletion of ground water levels on the other, as a recent CAG audit report on Management of Storm Water in Bengaluru Urban Area informs.

The report is an eye-opener in the backdrop of recent floods that the city witnessed.

The audit report for the year 2021 highlighted that there is an urgent need for urban managers to address this issue from the perspectives of water security/environment and urban planning. Rapid increase in frequency of floods in the city over the last few years have lead to destruction of roads, traffic congestion lasting several hours and extensive damage to public property and health.

The performance audit revealed that Bengaluru witnessed large scale encroachment of lakes and drains and depletion of natural drainage systems. The changes in land use such as decreased vegetation cover and open spaces and increased built-up area resulted in loss of inter-connectivity between water bodies, impacting effective recharge of ground water and increase in runoff of storm water.

The CAG audit report referred to a study by Indian Institute of Science which says that the city (covering an area of 741 sq km) had 1,452 water bodies with a total storage capacity of 35 TMC during the early 1800s. By 2016, the number of water bodies in the same area reduced to 194 with a storage capacity of 5 TMC. The current storage capacity which has further declined due to siltation is merely 1.2 TMC. Out of 210 lakes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) as at the end of December 2020, 18 lakes with a total area of 254 acres and 17 guntas were identified as disused lakes, making them vulnerable to encroachment and future conversions.

The report said that a robust policy governing storm water management does not exist. The State Government and BBMP failed to consider urban surface runoff (average annual rainfall being 969 mm during 2013-19) as a water resource despite growing scarcity of water in the state/city. More than 40 per cent of properties under the purview of Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) failed to adopt mandatory rain water harvesting structures.

Though a large number of works were abandoned and rescinded due to poor performance of contractors, risk and cost clause were not invoked. This led to extension of undue financial benefit of Rs 35.31 crore to the contractors. BBMP also resorted to payment of Rs 94.93 lakh to an agency without the original records and proper reconciliation under questionable circumstances, it said.

The report highlighted that BBMP failed to prepare a Storm Water Drain (SWD) manual specifying the design, construction and maintenance of the SWD infrastructure of the city.

"It failed to factor in reasons for high intensity rainfall due to rapid urbanisation and did not adhere to the provisions of Indian Road Congress and the guidelines of National Disaster Management Authority while designing and constructing roads/drains. Ground water recharge structures were not taken up due to flow of sewage in SWDs. Water bodies and drains were not interconnected and linkage between different drains was absent. This affected free flow of

storm water leading to frequent flooding in various parts of the city," said the report. [https://ianslive.in/news/bengaluru\\_paradox\\_floods\\_go\\_hand\\_in\\_hand\\_with\\_ground\\_water\\_depletion-906829/NATION/1](https://ianslive.in/news/bengaluru_paradox_floods_go_hand_in_hand_with_ground_water_depletion-906829/NATION/1)

## **18. 'Significant gaps' in Karnataka govt name-match tool for DBT ([deccanherald.com](https://deccanherald.com)) SEP 25 2022**

Karnataka was seen as a pioneer when it deployed an algorithm to make sure public money goes to the right person despite one's name not matching with documents such as Aadhaar for direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Name mismatch was a teething trouble citizens faced in getting government benefits. The algorithm negated the need to manually check names.

Now, at least six years after it was first put to use, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) has found "significant gaps" in the name-matching tool, raising questions over its "reliability and integrity".

The algorithm written by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) assigns a name match score between 0 and 100 comparing the name of the beneficiary as per Aadhaar with the name of the person whose account is actually credited with money under various government schemes. This is done post payment.

The CAG found that different name-match scores were awarded for the same beneficiary on different transactions "indicating inconsistency in the process".

Sample this: A beneficiary named G Satyavathi received Rs 900 under the government's milk incentive scheme. Her account name was Gubbal Sathyavathi Suryachandrarao. The name match score was 19. However, when she received Rs 1,100 under the same scheme, the name match score was 0.

The CAG audit analysed 22.91 lakh such transactions where the name match score was between 0 and 20 where chances of cash benefits going to a wrong beneficiary is higher.

Of these 22.91 lakh transactions, 77,148 records did not have beneficiary name, 3,210 did not have account holder's name, 6,567 had no bank name, 3,211 did not have the bank account number and 5,610 did not have masked Aadhaar number.

"The above gaps indicate the lack of validation input controls and impacts the reliability and integrity of the name-matching exercise," the CAG said. The government told the auditors that the mismatch could be "due to software updates and issues", that the name match score is being constantly reviewed and changes are suggested to C-DAC. "Software updates affecting a process indicates the lacunae in the application," the CAG said.

Senior IAS officer Munish Moudgil, an IIT Bombay alumnus, first wrote the name-matching algorithm in 2014, which was used by the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Ltd and for the Parihara drought relief compensation.

According to sources, when the e-Governance department wanted the source code, Moudgil refused. So, the e-Governance department got it done from C-DAC, which the CAG says needs "corrective action". <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/significant-gaps-in-karnataka-govt-name-match-tool-for-dbt-1148042.html>

## 19. DBT के लिए कर्नाटक सरकार के नाम-

मिलान टूल में 'महत्वपूर्ण अंतराल' ([jantaserishta.com](http://jantaserishta.com)) 25 Sep 2022

कर्नाटक को एक अग्रणी के रूप में देखा गया था जब उसने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक एल्गोरिदम को लागू किया था कि प्रत्यक्ष लाभ हस्तांतरण (डीबीटी) के लिए आधार जैसे दस्तावेजों के साथ किसी का नाम मेल नहीं होने के बावजूद जनता का पैसा सही व्यक्ति तक जाता है। नाम बेमेल नागरिकों को सरकारी लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए एक कठिन समस्या थी। एल्गोरिथम ने नामों को मैनुअल रूप से जांचने की आवश्यकता को नकार दिया।

अब, इसे पहली बार उपयोग में लाए जाने के कम से कम छह साल बाद, नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) ने नाम-मिलान उपकरण में "महत्वपूर्ण अंतराल" पाया है, जो इसकी "विश्वसनीयता और अखंडता"।

सेंटर फॉर डेवलपमेंट ऑफ एडवांस्ड कंप्यूटिंग (सी-

डैक) द्वारा लिखित एल्गोरिदम, आधार के अनुसार लाभार्थी के नाम की तुलना उस व्यक्ति के नाम से करता है, जिसके खाते में वास्तव में पैसे जमा होते हैं। विभिन्न सरकारी योजनाओं के तहत। यह भुगतान के बाद किया जाता है।

कैग ने पाया कि एक ही लाभार्थी के लिए अलग-अलग लेनदेन पर अलग-अलग नाम-

मिलान स्कोर दिए गए थे "प्रक्रिया में असंगति का संकेत"। इसका नमूना: जी सत्यवती नाम के एक लाभार्थी को सरकार की दूध प्रोत्साहन योजना के तहत 900 रुपये मिले। उनके खाते का नाम गुब्बल सत्यवती सूर्य चंद्रराव था। नाम मैच का स्कोर 19 था। हालांकि, जब उसे उसी योजना के तहत 1,100 रुपये मिले, तो नाम मैच का स्कोर 0 था।

कैग ऑडिट ने 22.91 लाख ऐसे लेनदेन का विश्लेषण किया जहां नाम मिलान स्कोर 0 और 20 के बीच था जहां गलत लाभार्थी को नकद लाभ मिलने की संभावना अधिक है। इन 22.91 लाख लेनदेन में से 77,148 रिकॉर्ड में लाभार्थी का नाम नहीं था, 3,210 में खाताधारक का नाम नहीं था, 6,567 का कोई बैंक का नाम नहीं था, 3,211 के पास बैंक खाता संख्या नहीं थी और 5,610 में आधार नंबर नहीं था।

सीएजी ने कहा, "उपरोक्त अंतराल सत्यापन इनपुट नियंत्रण की कमी को इंगित करता है और नाम-मिलान अभ्यास की विश्वसनीयता और अखंडता को प्रभावित करता है।" सरकार ने लेखा परीक्षकों से कहा कि बेमेल "सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट और मुद्दों के कारण" हो सकता है, कि नाम मिलान स्कोर की लगातार समीक्षा की जा रही है और सी-डैक को बदलाव का सुझाव दिया गया है। कैग ने कहा, "एक प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित करने वाले सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट आवेदन में खामियों को इंगित करते हैं।"

वरिष्ठ आईएस अधिकारी मुनीश मौदगिल, एक आईआईटी बॉम्बे के पूर्व छात्र, ने पहली बार 2014 में नाम-मिलान एल्गोरिदम लिखा था, जिसका उपयोग राजीव गांधी ग्रामीण आवास निगम लिमिटेड और परिहारा सूखा राहत मुआवजे के लिए किया गया था।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक जब ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग को सोर्स कोड चाहिए तो मौदगिल ने मना कर दिया। इसलिए, ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग ने इसे सी-

डैक से करवाया, जिसे कैग का कहना है कि "सुधारात्मक कार्रवाई" की आवश्यकता है। <https://jantaserishta.com/local/karnataka/significant-gaps-in-karnataka-govt-name-match-tool-for-dbt-1599309>

## **20. CAG did not flag govt transactions: AP Finance Minister ([newindianexpress.com](http://newindianexpress.com)) September 24, 2022**

VIJAYAWADA: Minister for Finance and Legislative Affairs Buggana Rajendranath said the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) report only commented on policy matters and not government transactions.

On Friday, Buggana gave a point-to-point rebuttal to the former finance minister, Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, for his comments against the State government regarding the financial situation of AP citing the CAG report.

He said the administrative delay in certain financial transactions was due to the Comprehensive Financial Management System (CFMS) installed through a third-party during the TDP regime. Besides bifurcation and the Covid, Buggana blamed the previous TDP regime for the financial issues in the State.

Stating that the CAG report focused on the financial transactions of the first four years of TDP rule, he said, "During TDP regime, Rs 17,000 crore was borrowed against FRBM norms and the same was pointed out by the Union finance ministry. Following this, restrictions were put on the present government on borrowing."

On special bills for the financial year 2020-21, Buggana said the name special bills was coined to identify book adjustment transactions in the CFMS system. "Yanamala has forgotten that in 2018-19, as many as 98,049 similar book adjustment transactions were done when he was the finance minister," he said.

Special bills to the tune of Rs 26,839 crore were book adjustments as there was no centralised processing software for CFMS, he added and found fault with TDP leader for repeatedly rising the issue despite clarifications. "For the last nine months, nil adjustment bills method is being followed and there are no special bills anymore," he explained.

On the State government diverting 14th finance commission funds for paying bills of local bodies to discoms, the minister said, "Thanks to the TDP rule, local bodies had not paid power bills amounting to Rs 5,000 crore to the discoms, pushing them in a crisis. When the discoms were ready to disconnect power to the local bodies, the State government intervened.

Finding fault with Yanamala's allegation on the State recording lowest growth rate during 2020-21, Buggana State's own tax revenues dropped by Rs 8,000 crore, while Rs 7,130 crore

was spent to address the Covid pandemic. Refuting Yanamala's claims on fiscal deficit rising to 59% from 30%, he said fiscal deficit in 2021-22 was Rs 10,000 crore less as against 2018-19. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/sep/24/cag-did-not-flag-govt-transactions-ap-finance-minister-2501418.html>

**21. Pension tension: Punjab may join Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh in junking NPS. This is fiscally ruinous & politically ineffective** ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com)) September 25, 2022

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann last week announced that his government was studying the modalities of reverting to the old pension system (OPS). OPS's defining feature is a guaranteed monthly payout that gets adjusted for inflation. Faced with many claims on their resources, many governments around the world are moving away from guaranteed pension payouts to one linked to market returns on retirement savings of employees – something similar to what private sector employees who are part of EPFO get.

In the 2001-02 Union Budget, GoI flagged the challenge of guaranteed pension payouts. For GoI, pension payments had risen from 0.6% of GDP in 1993-94 to 1.7% in 2002-03. The solution was to move government employees from the guaranteed OPS to the National Pension System (NPS), which is similar to the EPFO system. That is, the monthly contributions from an employee's salary are defined, but the amount received during retirement depends on the market returns on the contribution. GoI employees who joined in 2004 were moved to NPS. Many states did the same, with Punjab, then under a Congress administration, being among the first to do so. Rajasthan was another early mover and so was Chhattisgarh, both states have – alarmingly – announced reversion to OPS.

If opposition-governed states are looking at OPS as a weapon against BJP, they have chosen unwisely. OPS favours a miniscule proportion of a state's workforce. CAG's reports show that on March 31, 2018, a mere 3.1 million state government employees across all states were part of NPS. Therefore, in no state can government employees swing an election. However, OPS commitments can eat into spending on genuine welfare schemes for the larger population, which are also effective vote catchers. The huge challenges faced by the Indian armed forces are a warning. Defence thinktank IDSA's study showed that in 2011-12, 49% of the defence budget went to salaries and pensions and 27% to arms purchases. A decade later, partly on account of OROP, salaries and pensions ate up 61% of the budget and 19% went towards buying weapons. State governments should take this as a warning. A broader point is that India cannot afford fiscal recklessness. To prevent it, governments must not give in to extravagant demands of any section of society. The cost has to be borne by others. Opposition state governments should stick to NPS. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/pension-tension-punjab-may-join-rajasthan-chhattisgarh-in-junking-nps-this-is-fiscally-ruinous-politically-ineffective/>

**22. Official fails to collect Rs 10.56 crore mineral cess in Meghalaya** ([ifp.co.in](https://ifp.co.in)) UPDATED: 26 SEPT 2022

The Divisional Mining Officer (DMO), Jowai in Meghalaya, has failed to collect mineral cess amounting to Rs 10.56 crore from cement companies in Jaintia Hills region. This was revealed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report on revenue sector for the year ended March 31, 2020.

The report said test check of records of the DMO Jowai relating to collection of cess revealed that during the course of excavation for civil foundation work and development of plant site by two cement companies – Green Valley Industries Ltd (GVIL) and Goldstone Cements Ltd (GCL), limestone to the tune of 25,93,174 MT was extracted.

The Mining and Geology department allowed GVIL in July 2017 and GCL in May 2018 to utilise the extracted limestone as raw material for manufacturing of clinker and cement.

It was observed that the DMO, Jowai had collected an amount of Rs 3.68 crore against leviable cess of Rs 15.55 crore from the two cement companies. The DMO, Jowai failed to collect the remaining amount of Rs 11.87 crore from the cement companies (GVIL Rs 4.64 crore and GCL Rs 8.51 crore), it said.

On this being pointed out in December 2019, the DMO, Jowai stated that demand notices were issued in February and August 2020 to the companies to clear the due.

The DMO, Jowai informed the Audit that GVIL has cleared the outstanding due of mineral cess of Rs 3.36 crore between February and March 2021.

In respect of GCL, the DMO, Jowai admitted that the amount of Rs 8.51 crore is pending as in February 2022.

Mention was made in the CAG report on revenue sector for the year ended March 31, 2018 – regarding short collection of mineral cess on limestone.

In the said report, it was recommended that the state government should strengthen the system of recording of minerals transported through check-gates and should fix responsibilities on the erring officials for the revenue leakage.

System should be in place for periodic reconciliation of figures of transport permits issued and validated at both forest and mining check-gates after ascertaining the reported figures of land custom stations (LCSs).

The report said scrutiny of the record of the DMO, Jowai revealed that during 2018-19, the DMO Jowai had realised a total amount of Rs 1.97 crore as mineral cess on 3,28,550 MT of limestone.

However, cross-check with the records of the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial Division), Jowai revealed that a total of 6,69,978 MT had passed through the forest check gates during the same period for which cess of Rs 4.02 crore was realisable. However, cess of only Rs 1.97 crore was collected. Thus, there was short collection of mineral cess amounting to Rs 2.05 crore by the DMO Jowai.

The DMO, Jowai in its reply in February/October 2020 stated that the information from the DFO-TD, Jowai has been sought (in February/October 2020) for which is still awaited (till February 2022). This indicated absence of periodical reconciliation of figures of transport permits and validated at both forest and mining check-gates after ascertaining the reported figures of LCSs as recommended by Audit.

“Thus, the Divisional Mining Officer, Jowai failed to collect mineral cess amounting to Rs 10.56 crore from the cement companies,” the CAG said.

The matter was reported to the government in October 2021 and reminder issued on February 8, 2022 but reply is awaited till March, this year, it said. <https://www.ifp.co.in/meghalaya/official-fails-to-collect-rs-1056-crore-mineral-cess-in-meghalaya>

### **23. Meet on ‘river’ land reclassification turns dud? ([newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)) 24th September 2022**

CHENNAI: The first meeting of the high-level committee exclusively to examine the proposal to reclassify six acres of land in Nandambakkam, which is marked as a portion of the Adyar river in the Second Master Plan map, as a residential and school building was held without the presence of officials from the revenue and water resources departments.

“The meeting was held this week but officials of both these crucial departments were absent, sources said. When TNIE contacted a top CMDA official, he did not comment. He also did not reveal details on whether the meeting has been postponed.

The committee was formed to assess the genuineness of revenue records, whether the land is a government poramboke or private patta land or whether it is a waterbody. The committee was to submit the report in the next authority meeting.

At the first authority meeting of the CMDA held under the DMK regime, the attempt to reclassify the land was opposed. But seven months down the line, officials have been questioning the Second Master Plan and claiming revenue records show it as a private patta land.

Sources said the CMDA is also studying reclassification of waterbodies in the first and second master plans. It is learnt that several CMDA teams have been formed to inspect waterbodies. Sources said there have been issues pertaining to the First Master Plan, in which waterbodies have been shown as open space reservation land, and this was rectified in the Second Master Plan. Sources said hundreds of survey numbers are going to be inspected before submitting the report.

To a query on why the study is being conducted, a top official did not comment. According to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, many urban lakes, which are key to Chennai’s water security and are also flood carriers, have disappeared or shrunk. Between 1979 and 2016, the area under waterbodies declined. Adyar Estuary, a unique eco-system at the mouth of the Adyar river, which is surrounded by thickly-populated areas, has shrunk due to large-scale constructions in the estuary. And Mogappair Lake vanished as construction was allowed on the lake bed.

Similarly, the Ambattur Tank, which influences the flow of Kosasthalaiyar River, shrunk over the years due to constructions on the tank bed. Sources said they are not clear why the study is being conducted when the CAG report has almost all the details till 2016. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2022/sep/24/meet-on-river-land-reclassification-turns-dud-2501329.html>



## 24. एजी कार्यालय का सवाल: पिछले तीन साल क्यों नहीं किया गया निजी स्कूलों का निरीक्षण ([amarujala.com](http://amarujala.com)) September 25, 2022

हिमाचल प्रदेश।  
प्रदेश में कई निजी स्कूलों की ओर से मनमाने तरीके से फीस बढ़ोतरी को लेकर आए दिन अभिभावक सवाल उठाते हैं। कई बार हमीरपुर और शिमला में धरना प्रदर्शन तक हो चुके हैं, लेकिन इन स्कूलों में सुविधाओं को जांचने के लिए सरकारी विभागों ने भी ईमानदारी से ड्यूटी का निर्वहन नहीं किया। इसी तरह के एक मामले में हिमाचल प्रदेश महा लेखाकर (एजी) कार्यालय शिमला ने प्रारंभिक शिक्षा उपनिदेशक हमीरपुर से निजी स्कूलों के निरीक्षण को लेकर जवाब तलब किया है। अंकेक्षण के दौरान एजी कार्यालय शिमला से आई टीम ने जिला हमीरपुर के निजी स्कूलों में पिछले तीन साल तक कोई निरीक्षण न करने की मामले को गंभीरता से लिया है।

एजी कार्यालय की टीम ने पाया कि हमीरपुर जिले के निजी स्कूलों में वर्ष 2017 से 2020 तक खंड प्रारंभिक शिक्षा अधिकारियों ने अपने-

अपने क्षेत्र के तहत आने वाले निजी स्कूलों का निरीक्षण नहीं किया। हिमाचल प्रदेश निजी शिक्षा संस्थान अधिनियम 1997 की धारा 13

(1) के तहत शिक्षा विभाग के सक्षम अधिकारी को संबंधित निजी स्कूलों का निरीक्षण करना अनिवार्य है। इस अधिनियम की धारा 13

(2) के तहत संबंधित निजी स्कूलों को कमियां दूर करने को निर्देश जारी किए जा सकते हैं।

प्रारंभिक शिक्षा उपनिदेशक कार्यालय के रिकॉर्ड की जांच के दौरान पाया गया कि केवल इन निजी स्कूलों को मान्यता देने के दौरान ही निरीक्षण किया गया था। औचक निरीक्षण की परफार्मेंस शून्य रही। इस संदर्भ में जनवरी 2021 को प्रारंभिक शिक्षा उपनिदेशक कार्यालय हमीरपुर ने जवाब दिया था कि उच्च अधिकारियों के दिशा-निर्देशों के तहत निजी स्कूलों का समय-

समय पर निरीक्षण किया जाता रहा है, लेकिन मौके पर कोई रिकॉर्ड ऑडिट टीम को नहीं मिला।

### फीस ज्यादा, सुविधाएं कम

जिला हमीरपुर में समय-

समय पर अभिभावक सवाल उठाते रहे हैं कि कुछेक निजी स्कूल प्रबंधक मनमाने तरीके से शुल्क में बढ़ोतरी कर रहे हैं। कोविड-

19 के दौरान कुछ अभिभावक उपायुक्त से मिले थे। कहा था कि कोविड के कारण स्कूल बंद रहे, लेकिन कुछ निजी स्कूल जबरन शुल्क वसूल रहे हैं। शुल्क जमा न करवाने पर बच्चों को स्कूल से निकालने की धमकियां दी जा रही हैं। हमीरपुर के अलावा शिमला में भी निजी स्कूल अभिभावक संघ ने मनमानी फीस बढ़ोतरी को लेकर प्रदर्शन किए थे।

### जिले में यह है स्कूलों की स्थिति

जिला हमीरपुर में 24 प्राइमरी स्कूल,

168 माध्यमिक,

60 उच्च पाठशालाएं और 73 वरिष्ठ माध्यमिक पाठशालाएं निजी क्षेत्र में चल रही हैं। सरकारी क्षेत्र में 480

प्राइमरी स्कूल,

116 माध्यमिक,

66 उच्च और 100 वरिष्ठ माध्यमिक पाठशालाएं हैं। हर साल इन स्कूलों में सैकड़ों विद्यार्थी शिक्षा ग्रहण करते हैं।

एजी कार्यालय से निजी स्कूलों के निरीक्षण को लेकर ऑब्जेक्शन लगा है। जिले में 480 प्राइमरी और 116 माध्यमिक पाठशालाएं हैं। सरकारी स्कूलों की संख्या अधिक होने के कारण निजी स्कूलों का निरीक्षण करने में दिक्कतें पेश आती हैं, लेकिन भविष्य में निजी स्कूलों के निरीक्षण को लेकर सभी खंड प्रारंभिक शिक्षा अधिकारियों को दिशा-

निर्देश जारी कर दिए गए हैं। हालांकि, यह मामला हमीरपुर में मेरी ज्वाइनिंग से पहले का है। - संजय कुमार ठाकुर, उपनिदेशक, प्रारंभिक शिक्षा विभाग हमीरपुर

<https://www.amarujala.com/shimla/accountant-general-himachal-pradesh-ask-question-from-elementary-education-department>

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

### **25. Army to buy over 4 lakh carbines, 47,000 bullet-proof jackets ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)) UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**

#### **Army seeks responses from vendors, issues Request For Information**

The Army has issued two Request For Information (RFI) for the procurement of 4.25 lakh close-quarter battle (CQB) carbines and 47,627 bullet-proof jackets (BPJ). The RFIs were uploaded on the Army website on September 22 and the due date to submit responses is October 21, 2022.

“After signing of the contract, the quantity required should be delivered commencing earliest but not later than eight months and completing earliest but not later than 60 months. The vendors should confirm if they can deliver the requisite quantity of CQB carbine within the stipulated timeframe,” the RFI for CQB said.

The tentative timeline of issue of Request For Proposal (RFP) is November 2022, both the RFIs said.

On the operational characteristics of the carbine, the RFI said it should fire the in-Service Indian 5.56 x 45mm ammunition and have an effective range of not less than 200 metres. Weight of the carbine without magazine and accessories should not exceed 3 Kgs + 10% and it should have a minimum service life of 15 years or 15,000 rounds whichever is earlier, the RFI stated.

“After signing of the contract, the quantity required should be delivered commencing earliest but not later than six months and completing earliest but not later than 24 months,” the RFI for BPJs said.

Under a ₹700-crore deal in February 2019 with Sig Sauer of the U.S., the Defence Ministry procured 72,400 SIG-716 assault rifles through fast track procurement (FTP), most of which were for the Army and have been provided to frontline troops involved in counter-insurgency operations. The remaining demand of over 7 lakh rifles was to be met through the licence manufacture of Russian AK-203 rifles in India through a joint venture with the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). However, the final deal has been stuck over the issue of pricing.

Similarly, a case for over 90,000 close quarter carbines (CQB) again through the FTP route has been stuck for a while and was eventually cancelled. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) granted fresh approval for the carbine procurement recently. The Army has, for sometime, been attempting to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle.

In the last few years, several Indian companies have invested in the small arms segment given the large requirement and efforts by the government to open up ammunition to the private sector, and have started production as well. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/army-to-buy-over-4-lakh-carbines-and-bullet-proof-jackets/article65927908.ece>

## 26. Future calls ([thehindubusinessline.com](https://www.thehindubusinessline.com)) Sep 25, 2022

### **New telecom Bill is comprehensive but needs some refinement**

The move to overhaul the legal framework governing the telecom sector is well directed in many respects, but appears to vest discretionary powers in the State. The new framework, the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, promises to usher in a slew of much-needed reforms including a separate set of rules to deal with insolvency for stressed telecom assets; easier merger and acquisition norms; a new body to administer the Universal Service Obligation fund, with the scope expanded to include economically unviable zones in urban areas; and providing an enabling framework that facilitates Right of Way for laying or building telecommunication infrastructure.

However, some of the other provisions in the draft Bill need more clarity if the Centre wants to steer clear of controversies. For example, the draft Bill grants the Centre powers to write off dues to any operator under extraordinary circumstances, including financial stress, consumer interest, and maintaining competition. There is a risk of this provision being misused unless there are clear guidelines under which an operator can ask for a waiver of dues. Can Vodafone Idea ask the Centre to waive off its dues of nearly ₹2 lakh crore under the new policy? Similarly, the draft Bill allows the Centre to assign spectrum administratively. While the auction route has not been done away with under the new framework, the Centre will have the discretion to decide on the mode of allocating spectrum. Given that the telecom sector has seen huge legal battles in the past over arbitrary allocation of spectrum, the Centre should put out a list of services for which airwaves will not be auctioned and take out the discretionary element. There is also concern over the proposal to amend Section 11(1) of the TRAI Act which may reduce the role of the telecom regulator.

There is no doubt that the fast-changing telecom scenario with the advent of technologies such as 5G needs to be governed under a new set of rules. The existing regulatory framework for the telecommunication sector is based on the archaic Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The nature of telecommunication, its usage, and technologies have undergone a massive change, especially in the last five years. New communication technologies such as 4G and 5G, Internet of Things, Industry 4.0, M2M Communications, and Mobile Edge Computing require a new approach to policymaking. At the same time, the industry is going through a financial crisis as a result of which the telecom market has been reduced to a duopoly. The overall debt burden on the incumbent players has burgeoned to alarming levels due to expensive spectrum auctions and huge reductions in cash flows. Consumers are no better today than they were two decades

ago when it comes to the quality of services. In this context the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 is perhaps the most comprehensive overhaul of rules undertaken in the telecom sector. The Centre would, however, do well to utilise the consultation process to iron out the problem areas. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/future-calls/article65934559.ece>

## **27. MCD involved in ₹84 cr waste transport graft, says AAP; civic body rejects claim ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) Updated on Sep 25, 2022**

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday accused the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) of corruption to the tune of ₹84 crore in the lifting and transportation of municipal waste from Bhalswa landfill.

AAP Rajinder Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak, who is also the party leader in charge of MCD matters, said, “The same work of lifting garbage was awarded in February 2022 at the rate of ₹3,250 per tonne while later, the same work was awarded at the rate of ₹400 per tonne. How is this possible? The old company had already processed three lakh tonnes of garbage, at the February rates, which has caused a loss to the public exchequer,” Pathak said.

He demanded the enforcement directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register an FIR in the matter against officials and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders who were helming the municipal corporation during the award of tender.

Pathak said in February 2020, BJP-ruled MCD had awarded a tender to a private company to lift and transport garbage from the Bhalswa landfill at ₹3,250 per metric tonne. “As per the new rules, the company was supposed to install GPS locators on its trucks, but it refused to do so, leading to the cancellation of the tender. Later, another company was awarded the tender at just ₹400 per metric tonne. The previous company had already processed three lakh tonnes of garbage, implying there has been a scam of around ₹84 crore. When the tender could have been awarded at ₹400 per metric tonne, then why was it awarded for ₹3,250 per metric tonne in the first place? This scam couldn’t have been possible without the collusion of BJP leaders. AAP demands a thorough investigation in the matter,” Pathak said.

One of the three oversaturated garbage dump sites in the city, Bhalswa landfill in north Delhi is estimated to hold more than 80 lakh tonnes of accumulated legacy waste. The site is spread over an area of 36 acres and has reached a height of 62 metres in 2019. In normal circumstances, the maximum height of a landfill should not exceed 15m but due to unavailability of space, fresh garbage dumping continues there.

Responding to the allegations, the MCD issued a statement refuting the charges. “The allegation arises from the fact that on a recent tender called for lifting of RDF from the landfill sites, the rights were allotted at the rate of ₹400 per metric tonne (MT) in August 2022. This difference in rates is the basis of allegation. Municipal Corporation of Delhi finds the allegation a futile attempt to malign the corporation and it rejects such allegation in entirety,” statement reads.

The statement adds: “Corporation has been continually getting rate of transportation for disposal of waste from its landfill sites reduced. Further, the tender process have been transparent and open. Lifting of waste from landfill site is something which cannot be

postponed or withheld at any cost...the corporation has been steadfastly working on reducing the transportation cost and has successfully achieved to do so.”

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said AAP leaders are spreading lies.

“Pathak levelled a mischievous allegation of scam on erstwhile north MCD. Actually, the sand generated after garbage disposal is transported to highway project sites and the contractor is paid at per metric tonne rates as per the distance to the sand disposal site. This payment has nothing to do with GPS installation. MCD added this condition just to ensure that sand reaches the correct spot,” Kapoor said.

He added that in 2020, the trucks had to travel very long distances to reach the sites and so the rates were higher and now they are transporting to nearby sites; so rates have come down steeply. “It seems either Pathak doesn’t know how to read contracts or is intentionally making a false claim,” he said. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/mcdinvolved-in-84-cr-waste-transport-graft-says-aap-civic-body-rejects-claim-101664042127964.html>