



United Residents Joint Action of Delhi

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Dr. Prashant Gargava

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Subject: Draft Parking Rules Delhi-URJA's Stand

Sir

Draft Parking Rules Delhi - URJA's Stand on Parking in Residential Areas on the Transport Minister demanding changes in Draft Parking rules. All this of course is in the course of pursuing heedless populist behavior at the cost of Delhi.

For years urban planners and environmentalists as well as responsible citizens have asked for Parking to be made both chargeable and expensive. This was reflected in the draft parking policy as well. The decisions of GNCTD to make parking free in free in residential areas as against chargeable in the draft parking policy is condemnable in no uncertain terms.

The already beleaguered Municipalities will lose a large chunk of revenue for public services leading to an overall reduced quality of life. It is understandable to see selfishness and greed for freebies at the cost of society by individual car owners, but it is disappointing to see the Government of the Capital of a large economy (and State with the 2nd largest per capita income) treat it's citizens like slum dwellers or inhabitants of remote villages.

It is disappointing that the Municipal Corporations too would keep quiet because of this regressive politics. This short-term populism is no cause for celebration and blunts the capacity of the citizen in asking for better parking management.

The very idea of demanding free parking on public land outside their house, in the colony, is prima facie an immoral proposition. The land does not belong to the house owner. The same set of people demand the Government to pay for maintenance of colony Parks outside their house and seek to park freely on footpaths. Land in Delhi is frightfully expensive and any free parking means that the car owner is being provided crores worth of land free of cost.



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Again, this is the same set of people who complain about subsidies for the poor while arguing for free public land worth crores for their private cars. Even if we ignore the moral proposition, here is a set of direct damages that will now descend as a result of free parking in Residential area

- RWA or residents who support free parking for themselves may well have cut off their nose, only to spite their face. The Parking policy proposes that funds collected from parking will be spent in that local area.

Clearly in seeking free parking some RWA have once more surrendered to this entrapment by Politicians and will remain at their mercy for seeking petty benefits from LAD funds.

- Commercial Vehicles and Cab drivers-The moment space is vacated in residential colonies with cars going for work; these vehicles will come and park free.
- Fights and friction between cab drivers, tempo drivers, residents and fighting for free space is a recipe for violence
- The police simply do not have the capacity to police or control this amount of violation and more chaos will ensue
- Since Municipal officers will be allowed to challan as per new policy one can imagine the avenues this has opened for corruption within residential area. We already see this with existing parking mafia that reserves space outside offices for preferred users
- The idea of reducing car load in the city by making parking more expensive will be lost. Now the owner of multiple cars will take advantage of getting many times the land to park free as compared to owner of one car or bike. The Single car owner will be made a fool of.
- Users of public transport have been cheated by this decision. Multiple car users have been given a subsidy to use prime public land free. A single car is being given public land worth a crore and more, completely free of cost
- The cost of security guards, already a burden on RWA will increase as Parking Area Management Plan (PAMP) will not include these costs in management of parking.
- A family which does not own a car is now give up their fair share of public land and sacrifice it to car owners for free. Revenue worth crores to develop local areas is being thrown away to give free benefits to car owners
- As PAMP will not apply, mixed use Streets and housing in vicinity of commercial areas will suffer from people parking free in areas deemed as residential.



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In effect, the Delhi Government has tricked the people of Delhi and it is unfortunate that RWA groups have fallen straight into the trap. The already strained Municipal revenue due to unauthorized colonies and political conflict will be ill placed to offer better civic services but will find it impossible to speak out against freebies.

This is a truly bad and backward decision and URJA strongly condemns it. We demand that the policy originally set for notification be put in place and this irresponsible free parking decision be immediately rescinded.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atul Goyal'.

Atul Goyal
President

Copy: 1) Ashutosh Dikshit, CEO URJA
2) URJA Coordinators