

National News

DELHI CABINET INCREASES HONORARIUM OF ANGANWADI WORKERS BY NEARLY 100%



The Delhi Cabinet approved the proposal to increase the honorarium of anganwadi workers & helpers by nearly 100%.

The increase for anganwadi workers is Rs 9,678 per month and helpers will get Rs 4,839 per month.

The Delhi government has also decided to pay Rs 500 and Rs 250 per month as mobile/internet charges in addition to the honorarium.

■ Delhi Cabinet increases honorarium of Anganwadi workers by nearly 100%

In a significant development, the Delhi Cabinet chaired by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday approved the proposal to increase the honorarium of anganwadi workers & helpers by nearly 100%. The increase for anganwadi workers is Rs 9,678 per month and helpers will get Rs 4,839 per month.

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■ In a first, government schools to also serve as pre-schools for kids

In a first of a kind pan-India initiative, government schools will also act as pre-schools. The central government is attaching anganwadi centres to primary schools across the country, where children can be enrolled in formal school and then begin their education in the same system. This scheme will benefit children in both rural and urban areas where anganwadis are located.

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■ India has made primary education universal, but not good

The world's biggest school system is also one of the worst. IN 1931 Mahatma Gandhi ridiculed the idea that India might have universal primary education "inside of a century". He was too pessimistic. Since 1980 the share of Indian teenagers who have had no schooling has fallen from about half to less than one in ten. That is a big, if belated, success for the country with more school-age children, 260m, than any other.

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■ Delhi gov't's proposal to take over 449 private unaided schools gets LG nod

The Delhi government's proposal to take over 449 private unaided schools, after they failed to refund excess fee charged from parents despite government orders, has been given the official nod by Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. According to officials in the Delhi government, the proposal, as approved by Baijal, allows the schools to first reply to a show cause notice in two weeks on why the school should not be taken over by the government. Baijal has also cautioned the government to ensure that studies in the current term remain unaffected.

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■ Mergers, segregation, tests: Centre draws up customised roadmap for Uttar Pradesh schools

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has drawn up an education roadmap for Uttar Pradesh. Complete with timelines for radical reforms, it is intended to arrest and reverse the decline in the public school system in India's most populous state. It is unusual for the Centre to weigh in like this as school education is not its province. Beyond laying down terms for the implementation of centrally-funded schemes, such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for elementary education and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan for secondary education, the Centre has little say in how states run their schools.

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■ It's boom time for anganwadis in TS

Telangana's anganwadis are a booming sector with close to 1.5 lakh young women opting for child care mandated by Integrated Child Development Services. This is the highest figure recorded in the region during the past five years when ICDS training improved across India by 12 per cent.

The anganwadi centres also work as primary health and nutrition units in rural pockets where healthcare is rare. In the State, anganwadis work from 9 am to 4 pm to provide complete daycare for children whose parents work. Most children enrolled in anganwadi centres are those from poor socio-economic background. A total of 16.96 lakh children are benefited from 149 ICDS projects in the State. The centres also support 5.31 lakh pregnant or lactating mothers.

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Anganwadi stats



INTERNATIONAL WATCH

■ Put Away the Screens and Play Together!

Summertime is the perfect time for families to get outside and play. Splashing in water on a hot day. Digging in cool, slippery mud. Chalking up a sidewalk or driveway with hopscotch games or original drawings. Planting a simple garden. What child can resist such fun activities, especially when joined by siblings, parents, or even grandparents, and sometimes friends too?

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Photo: growingyourbaby.com

CECED EVENTS

■ The India Early Childhood Education Impact (IECEI) Study report was released on 28 July, 2017 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



"The IECEI Study is a longitudinal study that followed a cohort of 14,000 four-year olds from age 4 to age 8 in rural areas across three states of India: Assam, Rajasthan and Telangana. The first of its kind in India for its scale and its longitudinal, mixed methods design, the study documented children's institutional participation; assessed their school readiness levels and subsequent early grade learning outcomes; observed their classrooms; and collected information from their homes and preschools /schools. It also made a comprehensive assessment of the quality of preschool programmes and identified specific programme characteristics that are associated with positive developmental outcomes for children."

The study, authored by Venita Kaul, Suman Bhattacharjee, Aparajita B. Chaudhary, Purnima Ramanujan, Manjisha Banerji, and Mansi Nanda, was conducted by CECED, Ambedkar University Delhi in collaboration with ASER Centre and supported by UNICEF India.

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■ CECED, Ambedkar University Delhi meets team from UNICEF and Utkal University for a Partnership



CECED, AUD organized a meeting with UNICEF and Utkal University on August 11 and 12, 2017 at the Kashmere Gate campus of Ambedkar University Delhi. The meeting was attended by a team of delegates from Odisha - Prof. Ajit. K. Mohanty (formerly with JNU), Prof. U. N. Dash (formerly with Utkal University), Chief of UNICEF field office Ms. Yumi Bae, Education Specialist from UNICEF Ms. Madhumita Das and Dr. Bhaswati Patnaik, Head, & Ms. Sunanda Patnaik, Department of Psychology, Utkal University, Odisha.

The agenda of the meeting was to build an academic partnership between Utkal University and CECED, Ambedkar University for strengthening ECCE in Odisha. Coordinated by Dr. Abhishweta Jha and Dr. Sunita Singh from CECED, this is a part of the project on "Strengthening Quality in Early Childhood Care And Education: In Support of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)" supported by UNICEF.

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CENTRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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