

# PAY STAND-OFF - Striking sweepers dump trash on N Delhi roads

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The ripple effect of striking East corporation sanitation workers dumping garbage on streets was seen in north Delhi on Tuesday with arterial roads getting choked due to litter affecting traffic movement. Safai karamcharis of Rohini, Karol Bagh and Narela zones went on strike from Tuesday and used loaders and auto-tippers to dump garbage on the streets.

Around 10am, sanitation workers dumped garbage onto the road and created a ruckus near the Civil Lines municipal office. Traffic on both carriageways was blocked by the protesters and soon the roads near Tis Hazari, Raj Niwas and Chauburja were jammed. Snarls were also reported from Azadpur Sabzi Mandi and Rohini later in the day as protesters gathered at the various crossings.

Just like their counterparts in East Corporation, the North civic body's workers want cashless mediclaim as currently they have to pay the hospitals and seek reimbursement. "Salaries have been cleared till February . We still have 10 days to pay March salaries as it can be disbursed by April 10. Dumping garbage on the streets is now no more about salaries but about regularization, increments and mediclaim schemes," said PK Gupta, commissioner, North Corporation.

Snarls were also reported from parts of central, north and east Delhi throughout the day as the protesting municipal workers dumped garbage on arterial roads in these areas. Though police said that they had cleared a way for vehicles to pass, the roads remained choked through peak hours on Tuesday morning.

Traffic jams were also reported from parts of GT Karnal road as the protests spread to Loni border. Traffic officials said that requests have been sent to the protesters to remove the blockades from major arterial roads so that traffic movement on these busy stretches can be normalized. "We have asked them to remove the garbage by Wednesday morning

from the main roads,” said a police officer.

However, the sanitation workers have refused to relent. The safai karamcharis say that even though the commissioner has announced disbursement of salaries, they are yet to get it in hand. “The protests will continue till we get our salaries in our accounts. In both north and east Delhi, garbage will continue to be on the roads,” said Rajinder Mewati, president, Akhil Bhartiya Safai Mazdoor Union.

Meanwhile, municipal corporations have taken up cleaning of roads at night. On both Sunday and Monday, garbage from the dhalaos and roads was picked up at night. “It will be done on Tuesday night as well,” said a senior East corporation official. Apart from sanitation workers, Class I, II and III employees still remain unpaid in both the corporations.



**IN A MESS:** Arterial roads in the area were choked due to litter