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CAG exposes failure to revamp Rajiv Chowk

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The explosive CAG report highlights failure of the mega project to revamp Rajiv Chowk. The auditor generals' report said that the scope of the project was drastically reduced from ₹615.20 crore to ₹477.02 crore.

In its preamble on the project, the report explained how the increase in footfall and the ageing process has resulted in deterioration of the overall condition of the heritage complex and the original façade of the area.

The CP redevelopment plan was kicked off as a pilot project with the facade restoration of C Block. It was scheduled for completion ahead of the Commonwealth

Games in October 2010.

The makeover of the running heritage has been long overdue and now, with a few recent incidents highlighting the structural ageing of the arena, makes the issue more urgent. The central Delhi hub gets around 5,00,000 visitors daily.

The report further explains the major flaw in the upkeep of the buildings.

"Restoration of the façade was completed only in the outer and inner circles while the study to ascertain the structural stability of the buildings was not carried out. Facilities like subways, escalators, underground parking space and improvement of landscaping and lighting intended to ease both traf-

fic and pedestrian movement was not completed."

While the report talks of under utilisation of funds, it has also given details of projects and expenses which have been "rendered unfruitful."

"The expenditure amounting to ₹14.67 crore on utility corridors and surface development and water supply was rendered unfruitful."

The report also gave out discrepancies in expenses incurred.

"The turnkey consultants, Engineers India Ltd, did not submit the financial implications of change in technology adopted for construction of service tunnel to NDMC for review and decision despite increase in cost from the original ₹71.21 crore to ₹192.95 crore.

'RTE suffered due to poor planning, delay in funds'

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NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

The CAG has pointed out that poor planning, continuing vacancies and delay in release and utilisation of funds made the implementation of Right to Education (RTE) Act suffer in the national capital.

In the report, the CAG revealed that "a performance audit conducted from 2010-16 brought out that effective implementation of the Act suffered due to poor planning and preparation, continuing vacancies as well as delay in release of funds and its utilisation".

"The government failed to complete the mandatory household survey to collect and maintain a database of all children from their birth till they attain the age of 14 years and link it with mapping of schools for the purpose of determining and establishing neighbourhood schools," it said.



The CAG has noted that there was delay and short release of funds by the HRD ministry and the directorate of education to the "Universalisation of Elementary Education Mission".

It even revealed that enrolment in Class 1 in the government and aided schools decreased by 23 per cent from 2,04,884 in 2010-11 to 1,56,911 in 2015-16.

"In unaided schools of the

directorate, only 90,262 children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group were admitted against 1,45,142 seats which should have been reserved for them during 2011-16. 69 to 81 per cent of construction works of classrooms, halls, toilets and boundary walls remained unexecuted in North and South municipal corporations," the CAG report said.