

# Mandawali

## *Synopsis*

Mandawali is a MCD ward of Patparganj Assembly Constituency from East Delhi. The Patparganj constituency has a mixed demography of villages, slums, unauthorized colonies and apartments. Mandawali over the period of 40 years has evolved from a village settlement to slum then to an urban colony – Some blocks of Mandawali are regularized by the government while some blocks are yet to be authorized. Adjacent to it are some of the posh colonies like Ras Apartment, Maitree Apartment, Technology Apartment. Mandawali is a densely populated residential area majorly inhabited by migrants and the residents complain that the development of the area has been ignored by the governments.

The residents of Mandawali face the major problems of sewer lines, garbage, cleanliness, illegal hawking system and regular theft cases which amount to severe law and order problems.

### 1. The “Always Broken Road”

The main Mandawali road leading from SriRam Chowk to Talab Chowk is in absolute miserable state with potholes and is being dug for continuous 6 months now by different departments and not repaired and restored like a regular smooth road. This has led to the inconvenience to the residents and the shopkeepers in commuting as they say it is the only single commute road for the entire Mandawali.



Mandawali Main Road. Photo Taken on 19.02.2019



Near Talab Chowk, Mandawali Main Road. Photo Taken on 21.02.2019

Also, there are no proper covers on the roadside drain and thus it has become a serious struggle to walk or drive on the road. Add to it the routine traffic due to the tractors that keep on passing through Mandawali which residents complain not to be allowed as it creates lot of noise pollution. The frequent construction of road also leads to lot of dust leading to air pollution.

## 2. Not a Hedgewar, But a dumpyard



The Hedgewar Park at Talab Chowk, Mandawali is an MCD Park but it has turned into a massive dump yard. The park is supposed to be a horticulture site but not a nano sign of horticulture is seen instead it is piling up with loads of garbage. People are distressed since the site leads to foul smell and

keeps a major potential in spreading epidemics. It is a major distress site for the residents as they also see it as a site from which crimes emancipate like gambling, consuming drugs, alcohol consumption, eve teasing and also a site that motivates theft activities. It remains a politically contested area between MCD and MLA.



The nodal Officer, Shashi Chandana, stated many reasons for this menace like dumping of the garbage in that park by adjacent wards, the uncaring behavioural pattern of the residents, large garbage collecting vehicles unable to come due to damaged roads from months.

There is a dire requirement of spreading awareness among the

people to not throw garbage but people are of the opinion that the conversion of this park into a facility that runs 24 hours or a community hall will make people refrain from throwing garbage further.



Hedgewar Park at Talab Chow Mandawali. Photos Taken on 22.02.2019

### 3. Narrow Drains and Choking Sewers

Though AAP claimed work is has been on highlight for making new drains, however the residents complain that the drains in the inner lanes have become narrower due to the construction of roads in the inner lanes. The drains alongside the road have also become less in depth which leads to over flowing.



Residents note that the present sewer system that was laid in Mandawali 20 years ago as per the then population. and broadened. Chocking of main road sewer is a big issue which push back the sewer water and thus the sewer pipes/gutters in the inner lanes start overflowing. This cause a lot of distress.

### 4. Illegal hawking at the Sri Ram Chowk –

As reported by the residents, commuting through Sri Ram Chowk in the evening becomes impossible due to huge congestions by the street hawkers selling vegetable, fruits, street food, etc. Not only commuting by car or two wheeler, but people complain that even crossing the Chowk by the peddlers became extremely tragic as its too congested. These hawkers are backed by the police and MCD, and people complain that these hawkers bribe these authorities monthly. There is a fixed rental they pay for hawking.



Mandawali Main Road. Photos Taken on 23.02.2019

The hawkers often get involved in blood fights and has become a routine thing. Residents see it as one of the major security threats and appeals that this hawking system must be banned totally.