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'Austere' CLP shuns lavish weddings

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NEW DELHI: The great Indian wedding is giving the Congress leadership in the capital sleepless nights. Chief minister [Sheila Dikshit](#) and her party MLAs have decided to shun opulence when organizing social functions including marriages and lead by example. A resolution condemning the trend of lavish spending on weddings was unanimously passed in the Congress Legislative Party meeting chaired by the CM in the capacity of CLP leader. The meeting was held on the first day of the budget session on Tuesday in the Vidhan Sabha complex.

Just last month, [Kanwar Singh Tanwar](#), who contested the 2008 assembly polls and 2009 Lok Sabha elections on a BSP ticket and has now joined the Congress, made headlines for his son's lavish wedding held in south Delhi. The wedding was the talk of the town and estimates put the cost of the ceremonies at about Rs 100 crore.

However, on Tuesday all Congress MLAs came together at the CLP meeting to issue an appeal to Delhiites to organize simple weddings. Chief minister Sheila Dikshit is all set to write to the [Delhi Police](#) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi asking them to enforce laws related to use of loud speakers and parking to prevent these mega weddings and social functions from becoming a nuisance for others.

On being asked about her experience at weddings, Dikshit said, "I go to very few weddings. But yes, when I go I too face problems in reaching the venue due to traffic. It is seen that one spends about 30 minutes at the function but getting there can take about four hours. Also the kind of traffic jams and parking mess these mega functions cause can make it difficult to rush a patient to hospital in an emergency." On how the CLP suddenly seized on the issue of lavish weddings, the CM said, "It is problem that has been on our mind for quite some time now. Hence the appeal is being issued."

"The CLP has expressed concern over the lavish spending in social functions including marriages, birthdays, etc., in the capital. The present trend, in fact, is making the life of the common man difficult," Dikshit added.

A resolution condemning this trend of costly weddings and functions was unanimously passed by the CLP. Further the members resolved to spend reasonably on their social functions and avoid wasteful expenditure and wastage of resources including food items. They also resolved to organize such functions in a simple and sober manner. The members exhorted the people to follow this and restrict their expenditure on social functions.

The city government will be writing to the MCD and Delhi Police for stricter implementation of existing rules in respect of not allowing social functions to be held beyond 10pm. This move aims to curb noise pollution and blockage on the roads. The agencies may also be asked to enforce orders in respect of providing parking space within the farm houses where a large number of social functions are being organized.

Dikshit also said that since social functions, especially marriages, are linked to traditions of communities, they propose to reach out to different communities and urge them to conduct simple ceremonies.

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