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# Kejriwal hails birth of new politics, defends freebies

## Sworn In With 6 Ministers, Seeks Centre's Support

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal was sworn in for the third consecutive term as chief minister of Delhi, along with his cabinet, by lieutenant governor Anil Bajjal on Sunday afternoon at Ramlila Maidan which saw a capacity crowd cheering him. Addressing the people later, he attributed his overwhelming victory to the common man of Delhi, making the AAP's "new kind of politics" centrepiece of the celebrations.

"The people of Delhi have given birth to new politics in the country. This is the politics of work — schools, hospital, 24-hour and cheap power supply, water, good roads, women's security, corruption-free city — politics of 21st century India," he said, in remarks that were the closest he came to making a national pitch. He said this had started resonating across the country and other states were either emulating it or being denied any reason not to do so with people asking, "If Delhi can do it, why can't you?"

And, in an apparent gesture to people migrating to the city, he told those already here to call up people in their villages and say,



The 'politics of work' is resonating across the country, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said during his swearing-in ceremony at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday

"Hamara beta CM bangaya dobara, chinta ki koi baat nahi hai" (Our son has become the CM again and you need not worry anymore). This was a direct call to Aam Aadmi Party's core support base in slums and unauthorised colonies.

He defended AAP's freebies — free power, water, bus rides for women etc — with the remark: "Everything precious in the world created by God is free...Kejriwal loves people of Delhi and they love Kejriwal. This love is also priceless." He added: "Do I start charging people for education and health? Do I start charging patients for their operations? That is not possible."

He had started his address with a full-throated cry of "Bharat mata ki jai, Inquilab zindabad

and Vande mataram", with the crowd responding to complete the slogans. However, he was conciliatory in his demeanour, saying they had a lot work to do in order to bring prosperity and happiness to people in the next five years and he would not discriminate between supporters of different parties. "I am everyone's CM," Kejriwal declared.

Magnanimous in victory, Kejriwal said the elections were over and he had forgiven the opposition for the remarks made against him during campaigning. "I want to work together with all parties for development of Delhi. I want to work with the Central Government to take Delhi forward and make it a world-class city," he said. In this regard, he sought the blessings of the PM

and Central Government.

The high-octane political canvassing ahead of the assembly polls had seen at least two senior BJP leaders, including a Union minister, calling Kejriwal a "terrorist", forcing AAP run a counter campaign dubbing him the "son" of Delhi.

But, in an oblique reference to the debate over nationalism, he linked the honour of the Tricolour fluttering in the wind to education, health, women's safety, jobs, happiness for farmers and, finally, people rising above caste and religion to take India forward. Kejriwal ended his address with the Hindi version of "We shall overcome" i.e "Hum honge kamyab", urging the crowd to sing with him. This was followed by a reiteration of "Bharat mata ki jai, inquilab zindabad, vande mataram".

The atmosphere at Ramlila Maidan — the epicentre of the India Against Corruption movement which witnessed the birth of AAP in November 2012 and where Kejriwal and his council of ministers were sworn in in 2013 and 2015 too — was charged up as the chief minister-designate and his six ministers took oath of office and secrecy.

Vijender Gupta, who was leader of the opposition in the outgoing assembly, was the only person from the opposition to attend the ceremony though many invitations had gone out.