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नवभारत टाइम्स | नई दिल्ली | शुक्रवार, 28 जुलाई 2023

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विकास योजना पर गांव वाले नाराज़

DDA से नाखुश, गांवों की अनदेखी का आरोप

■ राजेश पोद्दार, मुबारकपुर डबास

दिल्ली में मास्टर प्लान 2041 को लेकर डीडीए ने अपनी तैयारी पूरी कर ली है, लेकिन दिल्ली के ग्रामीण ग्राम विकास योजना बनाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। उनका आरोप है कि ग्राम विकास योजना की उनकी मांग पर डीडीए के साथ सहमति नहीं बन पा रही है। साथ ही उनका आरोप है कि मास्टर प्लान 2041 दिल्ली के शहरी इलाकों के लिए है न कि ग्रामीण इलाकों के लिए। क्योंकि गांव के लिए कोई नीति नहीं बनाई जा रही है। पुराने मास्टर प्लान में जो नीति बनाई गई थी, वह तक अभी पूरी नहीं हुई है। ऐसे में मास्टर प्लान 2041 से पहले ग्रामीण चाहते हैं कि वह गांव में ग्राम विकास योजना के तहत हर गांव की अपनी जरूरत के अनुसार योजनाएं तैयार करें। इसे लेकर कई गांवों के लोगों ने डीडीए, शहरी विकास मंत्रालय, एलजी विनय कुमार सक्सेना और आवास एवं शहरी विकास मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी को पत्र भेजकर ग्राम विकास योजना पेश करने के लिए एक बैठक की अनुमति मांगी थी, लेकिन ग्रामीणों को यह अवसर नहीं मिल सका।

मुबारकपुर डबास गांव से चौगामा विकास समिति के महासचिव विजेंद्र सिंह ने बताया कि दिल्ली में अलग-अलग गांव की अलग-अलग समस्याएं हैं। मुबारकपुर डबास गांव को लेकर हम ने ग्राम विकास योजना की मांग करते हुए गांव में मूलभूत सुविधाओं को बहाल करने की मांग डीडीए से की थी। इसके साथ ही मास्टर प्लान 2041 में गांव के लिए बेहतर प्लानिंग की भी मांग की गई थी। जिसमें गांव के लोगों

मास्टर प्लान 2041 में गांवों के लिए कोई नीति नहीं बनाने का लगाया आरोप



■ ग्रामीणों की मांग है कि मास्टर प्लान 2041 से पहले हर गांव की अपनी जरूरत के अनुसार योजनाएं बनाई जाएं

की सहमति हो, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हो सका है। डीडीए से मिले जवाब में उन्होंने कहा कि पहले भी दूसरे गांव के प्रतिनिधियों से मिले पत्र पर बैठक का आयोजन किया गया है। जिसमें विचार और सुझाव लिए गए। उनका कहना है कि डीडीए को हर गांव के लोगों की अलग-अलग समस्याओं को देखते हुए अलग-अलग विचार और सुझाव लेने चाहिए। मुबारकपुर डबास गांव में सड़क तक नहीं है। गंदे पानी की निकासी की व्यवस्था नहीं है। इस पर डीडीए की तरफ से कोई प्लानिंग नहीं की गई।

AAP ने लगाया केंद्र की योजना में धांधली का आरोप

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : आम आदमी पार्टी ने केंद्र सरकार की 'जहां झुग्गी-वहीं मकान' योजना के तहत गरीब लोगों को फ्लैट्स आवंटित किए जाने में धांधली होने का आरोप लगाया है। 'आप' के दिल्ली प्रदेश उपाध्यक्ष और वजीरपुर के विधायक राजेश गुप्ता ने गुरुवार को पार्टी ऑफिस में एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस कर दावा किया कि 'जहां झुग्गी-वहीं मकान' योजना के तहत आवंटित फ्लैट्स में धांधली करके केंद्र सरकार झुग्गीयों में रह रहे गरीब लोगों को दिल्ली से भगा रही है। गुप्ता के मुताबिक, केंद्र की एजेंसी डीडीए ने इस योजना के तहत



आप नेताओं ने की प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस

वजीरपुर विधानसभा क्षेत्र में कुछ फ्लैट्स बनाए हैं, जिनके आवंटियों को 1,76,400 रुपए जमा करने को कहा गया है, जबकि गरीबी के चलते ये लोग इतने पैसे जमा कराने की स्थिति में ही नहीं हैं। डीडीए द्वारा लोन का इंतजाम भी नहीं किया गया है।

हिन्दुस्तान

कन्वेंशन सेंटर जल्द गुलजार होगा

नई दिल्ली, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। शास्त्री पार्क कन्वेंशन सेंटर मिनी स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स एक माह में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। वर्ष 2016 में इसकी इमारत तैयार हो गई थी।

कन्वेंशन सेंटर में एक हजार लोगों के बैठने के लिए दो हॉल, ढाई सौ लोगों के बैठने के लिए दो हॉल, एक ओपन थिएटर, किचन जैसे बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण हो गया है। कन्वेंशन सेंटर में सीवर, पानी कनेक्शन देने

■ सांसद मनोज तिवारी ने डीडीए उपाध्यक्ष से मुलाकात की

और इसे जल्द शुरू करने लिए उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली के सांसद मनोज तिवारी ने बुधवार को डीडीए उपाध्यक्ष सुभाषिण पांडा से मुलाकात की। बैठक में शास्त्री पार्क यमुना रिवर फ्रंट, मुकुंदपुर में 24 एकड़ जमीन पर झील पार्क और खेल का मैदान

जैसे प्रोजेक्ट पर भी चर्चा हुई। इसके अलावा झड़ौदा माजरा में 13 एकड़ जमीन पर मिनी स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स समेत केंद्रीय विद्यालय, बहुउद्देशीय ऑडिटोरियम पार्क, दिव्यांगों के लिए दो छात्रावास, गोपालपुर गांव में 10 एकड़ पार्क, पांच समुदाय भवन आदि पर भी बातचीत की गई।

सांसद से चर्चा के बाद डीडीए उपाध्यक्ष ने ये प्रोजेक्ट जल्द ही पूरा करने के निर्देश संबंधित विभागों के प्रमुखों को दिए हैं।

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NAME OF NEWSPAPER: THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

ITO barrage woes: 3 gates mired in silt, work underway with Navy diving team on standby after recent floods in capital

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
& JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

TWO WEEKS after the spotlight was thrown on it, three of the ITO barrage's gates have refused to budge, resisting persistent efforts to haul them up and out of the way of the river's floodwaters.

The Indian Navy's diving team remains on standby at Asita East, part of the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) now-submerged floodplain project, near the barrage which is owned and supposed to be maintained by the Haryana government.

The team, with 24 personnel at one point along with equipment from Mumbai being brought in, is present round-the-clock in case a diving effort may be required again to free the gates from the silt they are mired in.

Captain Sanjay Kadian, who heads it, said they got a call on July 14 regarding five of the 32 gates of the barrage being shut, asking they be cut since they have the capability. By July 18, two gates were opened. "We tried lifting gate 31 with a crane, but that didn't work," he said.

The river's water level receded

Tuesday only to rise again Thursday – but silt remains, according to Navy officials.

This silt has been holding the gates to the ground – their winches not being able to lift because of suction from the ground. A gate has even resisted a 140-tonne crane – the biggest that could be deployed – operated from the road above, which attempted to lift it after cuts were made on its sides.

Two gates are closer to centre of the barrage and bear heavy water flow, making it tougher to be worked upon; a team has been deployed by the civil administration to manually excavate some of the silt at gate 31. The Delhi and Haryana governments are also involved in the exercise. Sources associated with efforts said an excavator or a dredger closer to the gates may work. An excavator was deployed Wednesday, when water levels were still low, but wet silt prevented it from moving closer to the gates.

Satbir Singh Kadian, Engineer in Chief, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Haryana, said, "Pressurised water jets were initially used to clean the gates, but sediments remained. We have been told about dredging, we are



Work being carried out at the barrage last week. Amit Mehra

looking into these."

The Delhi and Haryana governments have recently sparred over the maintenance of the barrage. Sources in the Haryana government admitted the five gates had not been operated for five years adding that they had not anticipated that 27 open gates would prove insufficient to take the water discharge.

The money for maintenance was paid by the Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited, which was decommis-

sioned in 2018 and no money has been paid since.

"We should have been more cautious that the structure be maintained. We worked on the assumption that the design structure is for 10% redundancy (10% of the gates in the barrage are to be spare)," a source in the Haryana government said.

The Delhi government has sought the ownership of the barrage several times over the years, but Haryana insists on status quo as it wants to monitor the river

levels downstream through its own mechanism.

"Why did the water level rise? In 2019, 8.5 lakh cusecs were released (from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana, which determines levels downstream in Delhi), the passage was clear; there were no encroachments, and all the water passed," Kadian said.

According to Delhi government sources, the fact that the gates were shut came to the fore only "at the peak of the crisis" on July 13-14.

Sandeep Taneja, Chief Engineer, Yamuna Water Services (South), Haryana Irrigation Department, in Delhi, said 10% of the gates in a barrage are "usually extra" in case of repairs or non-functioning of another gate. "The barrage was designed for 3 lakh cusecs, which can pass even if 29 gates are open...in 2022, the electricity connection to operate the gate was shut off," he said.

"Even now, Haryana is supposed to ensure that heavy machinery is pressed into service to open the jammed gates. But they say that even if all of the gates are opened, it will only help ease the situation only to about 5% to 7%," a Delhi government official added.

To what extent was the barrage responsible for flooding? Ecologist C R Babu said, "The real cause is that we have reduced the flood carrying capacity of the floodplain—water used to spread horizontally over the floodplain and when it became narrow, water will rise vertically."

Bhim Singh Rawat, of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, said, "There is no requirement for a barrage. It is strangulating the river...All gates should have been opened to prevent backflow of water."

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दैनिक जागरण नई दिल्ली, 28 जुलाई, 2023

DATED

रात में एलजी ले रहे जी-20 की तैयारियों का जायजा

फूल व अन्य पौधों के गमलों से भरी गाड़ियां भी होती हैं दौरे में साथ

G20 बैठक की तैयारियां

● मुख्य सचिव, पीडब्ल्यूडी, एनडीएमसी, एमसीडी और डीडीए अधिकारियों के साथ 30 जुलाई तक करेंगे दौरा

● उपराज्यपाल के दौरे का मकसद दिल्ली को जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार करना

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: मौके पर मुआयना और निरीक्षण करने की अपनी अन्ही शैली को जारी रखते हुए एलजी वीके सक्सेना आजकल देर रात सड़कों पर निकलकर जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन से जुड़ी तैयारियों का जायजा ले रहे हैं। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि उनके दौरे और निरीक्षण से जनता को कोई असुविधा न हो और यातायात बाधित न हो, वह रात लगभग साढ़े नौ बजे राजनिवास से बाहर निकलकर दो से तीन घंटे तक सड़कों पर जायजा ले रहे हैं। पिछली दो रातों के दौरान उन्होंने धौलाकुआं से सरदार पटेल मार्ग होते हुए 11 मूर्ति के बीच पैदल दौरा किया। इसी तरह उन्होंने मदन टेरेंसा क्रिसैंट पर 11 मूर्ति से तीन मूर्ति मार्ग और अकबर रोड तक का भी दौरा किया।

ज्ञात हो कि जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए प्रतिनिधियों के आवागमन में उपयोग होने वाली लगभग 60 सड़कों का सुंदरीकरण चल रहा है। राजनिवास के मुताबिक मुख्य सचिव, पीडब्ल्यूडी, एनडीएमसी, एमसीडी और डीडीए के अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर एलजी 30 अगस्त तक इन सभी स्थानों का दौरा करेंगे, ताकि तय समय में फुटपाथों की मरम्मत के साथ सड़कों के किनारे हरियाली को बढ़ाया जा सके और सफाई सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

पिछले दोनों दौरों के दौरान एलजी ने एनडीएमसी द्वारा अब तक किए



जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के मद्देनजर विभागीय अधिकारियों के साथ रात में सरदार पटेल मार्ग पर सुंदरीकरण कार्य का निरीक्षण करते एलजी वीके सक्सेना ● सी. राजनिवास

गए कार्यों की सराहना की। उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि जल्द सभी कार्यों को अंतिम रूप मिल जाएगा। एलजी के इन प्रयासों का मकसद दिल्ली को जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए तैयार करने के अलावा यह भी सुनिश्चित करना है कि दिल्ली लंबे समय तक ऐसे आयोजनों के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार रहे। खास बात यह कि एलजी के दौरे के दौरान फूल व अन्य पौधों के गमलों से भरी गाड़ियां भी साथ होती हैं, ताकि उन्हें तुरंत उपयुक्त जगहों पर लगाया जा सके। इसके अलावा जरूरत के अनुसार छोटी-मोटी मरम्मत के लिए कर्मचारी एवं पेड़ों की छंटाई के लिए मशीनरी भी मौजूद होती है।

मनोज तिवारी ने एलजी की प्रशंसा कर सीएम पर साधा निशाना: सांसद

मनोज तिवारी ने ट्वीट कर एलजी की सराहना करने के साथ सीएम अरविंद केजरीवाल पर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने ट्वीट किया कि एलजी आधी रात में सड़कों पर गमले लगवाते मिल गए मुझे। खराब लाइट ठीक करा रहे हैं। टूटे टाइल्स बदलवा रहे हैं। छह लाख गमले मंगाए हैं और गमलों में अमृत रूपी पौधे लगवा रहे हैं। मैंने सुना, तो भागकर उनके पास गया। हैरान हूँ दिल्ली को सजाने की इस लगन पर। उनको लगभग चार किमी पैदल चलकर एक-एक स्थान को दुरुस्त कराते देख रहा हूँ। निवेदन किया, तो घर में चाय पीकर आगे बढ़े। कहा, सीएम शीशमहल में सो रहे होंगे, उस समय एलजी सड़कों पर हैं। यही है कार्य करने की मोदी शैली।

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

NAME OF NEWSPAPERS-----

---DATED-----

AAP, BJP bicker over slum rehab scheme

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party MLA Rajesh Gupta on Thursday alleged that a conspiracy was on under the Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makan scheme of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to harass the poor and leave them destitute.

Citing instances in the Wazirpur constituency, Gupta said that despite the DDA constructing flats and allocating them to many, the authority has arbitrarily disqualified several allottees through fraudulent and corrupt means.

"Despite sending multiple letters to the LG and DDA, no response has been received. To exacerbate the situation, community toilets that were used by the jhuggi residents were demolished even before the flats were built on the pretext of creating a garden in its place so that they are forced to leave the place. The central government is demanding Rs 1,76,400 from eligible flat reci-

ipients who are mostly daily-wage labourers and cannot afford to pay," Gupta said.

DDA member and BJP MLA Vijender Gupta stated that the rehabilitation policy for the slum dwellers had been formulated by DUSIB, not the Centre. "The rehabilitation scheme is being implemented by the DUSIB so the chief minister is pretty aware of the terms and conditions. Even the rates charged from the slum dwellers are as per this policy. The AAP's statement shows their frustration as the Delhi government has failed to provide accommodation to the poor," he said.

The AAP MLA said: "We requested the DDA to offer loans to support poor people, but they turned a blind eye. Private companies saw an opportunity and sought to take advantage. People secure loans at an interest rate of 6-7%, but they were subjected to a staggering 12% interest rate. Why? Simply because they are poor."

DDA reclaims 229 acres since April

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has carried out 49 demolition programmes in the national capital since April this year and has reclaimed around 229 acres, the housing and urban affairs ministry told the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

It also said that no demolition has been carried out by the DDA, MCD and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board as a part of G-20 summit beautification drive in Kasturba Nagar, Tughlaqabad, Pragati Maidan, the Yamuna Flood Plains and Dhaura Kuan. "However, DUSIB, GNCTD has informed that occupants of night shelters in Yamuna flood plain have been shifted to other night shelters," the ministry said.

On the housing for poor, the ministry said it supplements the efforts of state and UT governments by providing central assistance under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U). TNN

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28 जुलाई • 2023

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सहारा

DATED

एलजी का हरियाली बढ़ाने पर जोर

■ नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)।

उप-राज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने राजधानी में जी-20 को लेकर चल रही तैयारियों का जायजा लेने के लिए रात्रि अभियान शुरू किया है। एलजी ने बीते 25 जुलाई को धौला कुआं, सरदार पटेल मार्ग होते हुए 11 मूर्ति के बीच पैदल सड़कों को जायजा लिया। 26 जुलाई यानी बीते बुधवार को मदन टेरेसा क्रिसेंट, 11 मूर्ति से तीन मूर्ति मार्ग होते हुए अकबर रोड तक का जायजा लिया। इस दौरान एलजी के साथ मुख्य सचिव, लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यूडी), नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद (एनडीएमसी), दिल्ली नगर निगम (एमसीडी) और दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) के अधिकारी भी साथ थे। यह अभियान 30 अगस्त तक चलेगा। जी-20 की तैयारियों को लेकर करीब 60 सड़कों का सौंदर्यीकरण किया जा रहा है।

एलजी से सौंदर्यीकरण की सराहना करते हुए हरियाली बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया। सक्सेना के कहां कि फुटपाथ की मरम्मत के साथ ही हरियाली बढ़ाने और सफाई व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की जाए। उन्होंने उम्मीद जतायी है कि सौंदर्यीकरण का कार्य जल्द पूरा हो

■ जी-20 की तैयारियों का एलजी कर रहे औचक निरीक्षण



■ राजधानी की सड़कों को संवारने का काम तेज

जाएगा। उप-राज्यपाल के इस अभियान का उद्देश्य दिल्ली को एक नया लुक देना है। जिससे विदेशी मेहमान दिल्ली की सुंदरता की सराहना करने को मजबूर हो सकें।

अधिकारी ने दावा किया है कि एलजी के इस निरीक्षण का प्रभाव यह है कि धौला कुआं और आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे के बीच की सड़क का पूरी तरह से कायाकल्प हो चुका है। दिल्ली में आई बाढ़ से प्रभावित राजघाट पर परिचालन की निगरानी करते हुए, डब्ल्यूएचओ बिल्डिंग के सामने टूटे दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के रेगुलेटर नंबर-12 की साइट को भी उन्होंने निरीक्षण किया। एलजी के औचक निरीक्षण से सभी विभाग चौकन्ने हैं और रातदिन सड़कों के संवारने में लगे हैं।

पंजाब केसरी

DELHI

दिल्ली वालों को न हो कोई असुविधा, यातायात बाधित न हो इसका रख रहे विशेष ध्यान

रात में जी-20 की तैयारियों का जायजा ले रहे एलजी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना देर रात दिल्ली की सड़कों पर निकल रहे हैं। एलजी मौके पर मुआयना और निरीक्षण करने की अपनी अनूठी शैली को जारी रखते हुए सड़कों पर पैदल घूमते हुए जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन से जुड़ी सड़कों और उनसे जुड़े स्थानों के रखरखाव जायजा ले रहे हैं। इसका मकसद यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि उनके दौर और निरीक्षण से जनता को कोई असुविधा न हो। साथ ही यातायात भी बाधित नहीं हो। उपराज्यपाल रात साढ़े 9 बजे राज निवास से बाहर निकल रहे हैं और दो से तीन घंटे तक सड़कों पर सौंदर्यीकरण के काम को परख रहे हैं।

उपराज्यपाल कार्यालय के अनुसार एलजी विनय कुमार सक्सेना 25 जुलाई को धौलाकुआं से सरदार



पटेल मार्ग होते हुए 11 मूर्ति के बीच पैदल दौरा किया। इसी कड़ी को आगे बढ़ाते हुए उन्होंने बुधवार को मदन टेरेसा क्रिसेंट पर 11 मूर्ति से तीन मूर्ति मार्ग और अकबर रोड तक का भी दौरा किया। जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए प्रतिनिधियों के आवागमन में उपयोग होने वाली लगभग 60 सड़कों का सौंदर्यीकरण जोर-शोर से हो रहा है। उपराज्यपाल, मुख्य सचिव, लोक निर्माण विभाग, नई दिल्ली नगर परिषद, दिल्ली नगर निगम और दिल्ली

विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर 30 अगस्त तक इन सभी स्थानों का दौरा करेंगे, जिससे तय समय में फुटपाथों की मरम्मत की जा सके, सड़कों के किनारे हरियाली को बढ़ाया जा सके और सफाई सुनिश्चित की जा सके। अपनी पिछले दोनों दौरों के दौरान उपराज्यपाल ने एनडीएमसी द्वारा अब तक किए गए कार्यों की सराहना की। उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि जल्द ही सभी कार्यों को अंतिम रूप दे दिया जाएगा।

उपराज्यपाल द्वारा किए जा रहे इन प्रयासों का मकसद जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार करने के अलावा यह भी सुनिश्चित करना है कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी लंबे समय तक इस तरह के आयोजनों के लिए पूरी तरह से रहे। उपराज्यपाल के दौर के दौरान फूल-पौधों के गमलों से

भरी 3 गाड़ियां होती हैं जिससे उन्हें तुरंत उपयुक्त जगहों पर लगाया जा सके। इसके अलावा इस दौरान आवश्यकतानुसार छोटी-मोटी मरम्मत करने के लिए कर्मचारी और पेड़ों की छंटाई करने के लिए मशीन भी मौके पर ही मौजूद होती है। बता दें कि विनय कुमार सक्सेना उपराज्यपाल का पदभार ग्रहण करने के साथ ही दिल्ली को हरी भरी और साफ-सुथरी बनाने के जमीनी प्रयास कर रहे हैं। यही वजह है कि धौलाकुआं और आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे के बीच खंड का पूरी तरह से कायाकल्प हो चुका है। इसी तरह एलजी ने हाल में आई बाढ़ से प्रभावित राजघाट पर परिचालन की निगरानी करते हुए और डब्ल्यूएचओ बिल्डिंग के सामने ढह गए रेगुलेटर नंबर 12 की साइट पर भी स्वयं उपस्थित रहे थे।

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G20 preparations: Delhi L-G starts late-night inspections

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Preparations for the G20 Summit meeting to be held here in September have picked up pace with agencies concerned running against time to spruce up 60 road stretches, Raj Niwas officials said on Thursday.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has started late-night inspections of the ongoing work to ensure their timely completion, they said, adding it will continue till August 30.

"To ensure that his visits and inspection do not cause traffic disruptions and any inconvenience to the public, the L-G is starting the scrutiny in the late evening, around 9.30 pm, and taking stock of the progress for two to three hours on each visit," an official said.

He visited the stretch between Dhaura Kuan and Gyarah Murti on Sardar Patel Road on July 25 and the stretch on Mother Teresa Crescent from Gyarah Murti to Teen Murti roundabout as well as Teen Murti Marg and Akbar Road on July 26.

Sprucing up of around 60 roads and stretches, on which

Closer Look

» Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has started late-night inspections of the ongoing work to ensure their timely completion. It will continue till Aug 30

» To ensure that his visits and inspection do not cause traffic disruptions and any inconvenience to the public, the L-G is starting the scrutiny in the late evening, around 9.30 pm, and taking stock of the progress for two to three hours on each visit

delegates to the G20 summit will travel, are in full swing.

The L-G, along with the chief secretary, officials of the Public Works Department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Development Authority will visit all these places in late night hours till August 30.

On his last two visits, the LG appreciated the work undertaken by NDMC so far and expressed the hope that those would be completed soon.

» He visited the stretch between Dhaura Kuan and Gyarah Murti on Sardar Patel Road on July 25 and the stretch on Mother Teresa Crescent from Gyarah Murti to Teen Murti roundabout as well as Teen Murti Marg and Akbar Road on July 26



"These efforts, apart from, being aimed at making the city fully ready for the forthcoming G-20 Summit, will also ensure that the city is in full preparedness over the long term," an official said.

On his visits, the L-G is accompanied by three vehicles with flower pots to be placed at suitable locations, workmen for carrying out minor repairs wherever required and machinery to prune trees wherever needed, the official said.

AAP accuses Centre of expelling poor through flat allotment rigging

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has launched a scathing attack on the Modi government, accusing it of orchestrating a scheme to force the poor out of Delhi by manipulating the flat allotment process under the 'Jahan Jhuggi-Wahan Makan' initiative.

Senior AAP leader and MLA Rajesh Gupta, has come forward with allegations of corruption and fraud in the Wazirpur constituency, where flats were built for slum-dwellers.

According to Gupta, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has disqualified several eligible allottees through fraudulent means, despite constructing and allocating flats to many residents. He further highlighted that community toilets, previously used by the jhuggi dwellers, were demolished even before the flats were constructed, leaving them without essential facilities.

The most concerning aspect

of the allegations is that the DDA is demanding a significant sum of Rs 1,76,400 from the eligible flat recipients. Gupta argued that the majority of these individuals, who work as daily wage labourers, could not afford such an amount and should not be burdened with it.

Appealing for assistance, the MLA said, "We requested DDA to provide loans to support these vulnerable people, but they turned a blind eye. Private companies seized the opportunity and offered loans at a staggering 12 per cent interest rate, taking advantage of their dire circumstances."

Furthermore, it was revealed that those without regular employment and the illiterate were denied loans, exacerbating the situation for the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Gupta also alleged that this was a deliberate move to demolish the Jhuggi settlements and replace them with large building complexes, ultimately driving the poor, illiterate, and elderly out of Delhi.

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TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE WELL-BEING OF ANIMALS IN DELHI

First meet: New Animal Welfare Board sets compassionate agenda

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a landmark initiative to protect and enhance the well-being of animals in Delhi, the newly-constituted Delhi Animal Welfare Board convened its first meeting on Thursday at Delhi Secretariat.

Chaired by Delhi Development minister Gopal Rai, the meeting brought together 27 passionate individuals, each representing various sectors and categories. The board will support organisations and bodies involved in animal welfare across the 11 districts of Delhi, providing financial and technical assistance, alongside valuable guidelines.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Rai emphasised that, "Delhi Animal Welfare Board has been constituted to work for the betterment of the animals in Delhi. A total of 27 members divided into 19 categories have been included in the Animal Welfare Board. This



board will work for the prevention of cruelty to animals and their betterment in Delhi."

One of the crucial decisions taken during the meeting was the allocation of five mobile veterinary vans, specially equipped to provide swift and efficient treatment to animals in distress across the city. These vans will be instrumental in reaching out to injured or sick animals, espe-

cially strays, and ensure they receive timely medical attention and care.

Additionally, the board has given instructions for the establishment of five state-of-the-art diagnostic centres, fully equipped with modern facilities for comprehensive health check-ups of animals. This will play a vital role in promoting early detection and intervention,

Highlights

- » A total of 27 members divided into 19 categories have been included in the Board, says Rai
- » One of the crucial decisions taken during the meeting was the allocation of five mobile veterinary vans, specially equipped to provide swift and efficient treatment to animals in distress across the city

ultimately improving the overall health of animals in Delhi, Rai had announced.

The issue of stray animals was a significant concern discussed during the meeting. The Minister highlighted the need for proactive measures to address this challenge. As part of the solution, he instructed relevant departments to install the designated mobile veterinary

vans for prompt treatment and other necessary arrangements.

Furthermore, the establishment of diagnostic centres will aid in addressing the health needs of stray animals, enhancing their quality of life.

The Animal Welfare Board will act as a regulatory body, ensuring strict adherence to animal welfare laws throughout Delhi. By collaborating with various animal welfare organizations, including the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Gaushalas, and the Animal Welfare Board of India, the board aims to provide guidance and support to initiatives dedicated to animal welfare. "The main objective of this board is to prevent the suffering of all kinds of living beings and prepare a roadmap for their betterment," Rai affirmed, highlighting the board's mission to alleviate the hardships faced by animals in Delhi and chart a comprehensive plan for their welfare.

The anatomy of the Yamuna floodplains

How has rampant construction blocked flood pathways and impeded the river's 'right to expand'? Why are Yamuna floodplains important? What are the consequences of rapid urbanisation on the floodplains? How many people are dependent on the river? What do encroachments do?

EXPLAINER

Saumya Kalia

The story so far: Battered by heavy rains, the Yamuna looks slow, sluggish and swollen. Last week, the water levels hit a 60-year-high, gushing through elite neighbourhoods built close to the floodplains. Waters advanced towards the Taj Mahal for the first time in half a century. More than 25,500 people were evacuated and ferried to rescue camps in a brown stream of waste; many of them lived in make-shift low-lying slum dwellings next to the river.

Why is the Yamuna important?

The late environmentalist Anupam Mishra once called Yamuna, Delhi's "real town planner": it meandered through Delhi ensuring the city was never short of water and never ravaged by famine or flood. Delhi was "well-planned along the course of the river Yamuna, but it isn't so anymore," he said. Causes, experts argue, can be traced to haphazard construction activities, rapid urbanisation, lack of proper housing and lax regulations — all of which have besieged the floodplains.

"We talk about rivers in isolation, but floodplains are inseparable from the river channel," says Venkatesh Dutta, a professor at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. The river system includes both water and land. Yamuna is a lifeline to five States, and its floodplains are a charging point.

Yamuna courses east of Delhi, entering the city from Palla village and exiting at the Okhla barrage. The floodplains are two km wide on each side. The floodplain along Yamuna's 22 km run in Delhi, designated as the O zone by the Delhi Development Authority, has an area of approximately 9,700 hectares — the size of 1,500 new Parliament buildings.

Between Palla and Okhla, the composition of the floodplains changes from farmlands to slums, colonies, flyovers and bridges. It is also dotted with permanent structures like Ring Road, Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, Player's Building (housing the Delhi Secretariat) and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

What is submerged now was once part of the river's natural flow, Dr. Dutta explains. A river has the "right to expand" and needs to breathe through its flood plains. Any attempt to concretise constricts its air supply. "This is happening not only in Delhi, but all major cities including Pune, Lucknow, Mumbai," he said.

As part of river systems, floodplains slow water runoff during floods, recharge groundwater and store excess water, replenishing the city's water supply. "When you have sluggish flow, the surplus water stored in the floodplain is released back during the non-monsoon season," Dr. Dutta explains. "If you lose the floodplain, you also lose the storage of water." Delhi recorded similarly devastating floods in 1978, 1988 and 1995 which inundated floodplains, adversely impacting their health.

Who lives on these floodplains?

A 2022 report found there are 56 bastis (one basti has 15 or more houses), with 9,350 households and 46,750 people. Almost half of the households (4,835) practise farming as a livelihood; others rely on daily wage work, fishing, nurseries, and animal herding. Most residents migrated from Uttar



The Taj Mahal is seen on the banks of the swollen Yamuna river after heavy monsoon rainfall, in Agra on Wednesday. PTI

Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Rajasthan; some bastis have existed for eight decades and others were built more recently. Farmers near Palla and Hiranki villages traditionally grow rice, wheat, and flowers on the rich silt deposited by the river.

"Zone O supports a large variety of nature-based livelihoods with a low ecological footprint. Yet, these are being forcibly evicted in the name of ecological rejuvenation of the region," the report noted. The farmland size has reduced from 4,850 hectares in 2000 to 3,330 hectares in 2020, as people were evicted, and livelihood shifted to daily wage work.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2016 imposed a blanket ban on agriculture-related activities till the "Yamuna is restored and made pollution free".

On the NGT's orders, the DDA in 2021 evicted 800 families in the Muslim-dominated Badli House area, a part of the floodplains that falls under no-construction zones. Private contractors built flats and sold to people, mostly daily wage and domestic workers, who cannot afford housing in other areas.

How did settlements emerge?

The first major non-agriculture settlements appeared after Independence when refugees from Western Punjab fled to Delhi. They built kuccha houses on the floodplains along the Yamuna Pushta (from the ITO bridge and up to Salimgarh Fort). The planning era propelled urbanisation in the 1950s and '60s, witnessing the construction of the first thermal power plant (employing people as labourers to unload coal from trains and clear fly ash), the Ring Road and Rajghat Samadhi.

Over 180,000 jhuggis on the Yamuna Pushta were demolished during the 1975 Emergency, and people were resettled in the peripheries.

The 1982 Asian Games brought more than one million migrant labourers from neighbouring States, tasked with building flyovers, sports facilities and luxury apartments. Little to no formal housing was provided; workers eventually settled on the open plain along the western embankment after the Games. By 2004, almost 3,50,000 people lived along the Yamuna, according to estimates. They earned livelihoods as domestic help, rickshaw pullers, porters, mechanics, small vendors, factory workers in nearby trade markets such as Chandni Chowk and Sadar Bazaar. The population boom

outpaced Delhi's ability to build a proper sewage network and spiked Yamuna's pollution, Manu Bhatnagar of the Natural Heritage Division of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage told *The Hindu* in an earlier interview.

The Delhi High Court in 2004 ordered eviction of "unauthorised" settlements on the floodplains, demolishing shanties and evicting more than two lakh people.

"Their subsequent eviction on the charge of pollution cleared the way for the construction of capital-intensive projects of urban infrastructure and elite consumption," sociologist Amita Baviskar wrote in a paper. Large portions along the floodplains were used for projects — Delhi's largest depot for its public bus service, Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, metro depots, luxury apartments, and highways.

Moreover, Dr. Dutta says, "in the name of flood protection," cities use embankments which "jacket the river, limiting the river's ability to spread."

What does Delhi's Master Plan outline?

The Yamuna floodplain was designated as a protected area free from construction in the Delhi Masterplan of 1962. The Central Ground Water Authority in 2000 also notified the floodplains as 'protected' for groundwater management.

The draft Master Plan For Delhi 2041 divides Delhi into 18 zonal areas, designating Yamuna's floodplains as 'Zone O', delineated in two parts: river zone (active floodplain) and riverfront (regulated construction is allowed). The latter is where structures such as Akshardham Temple and Commonwealth Village have been built.

The South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) in 2020 found large parts of the Yamuna floodplains and riverbed were "grossly abused" due to lax implementation: 23 bridges including rail, road, metro and barrages have been built; there was a bridge at every 800m. "The creation of new embankments, guide bunds... are fragmenting the floodplain, promoting encroachments, and also leaving a trail of construction and demolition debris into riverbed and floodplains," the group wrote.

An Expert Committee in 2012 formed to examine DDA's Riverfront Development Scheme warned against any construction on floodplains. The areas proposed under the Yamuna Riverfront Development (YRDF) plan — which proposes

biodiversity parks and 'recreational' activities — were within the active floodplain, which could affect the topography, increase pollution and affect flood-carrying capacity, the Committee warned.

"If you build on areas reserved for recharge, you lose groundwater," says Dr. Dutta. The layers of sediments of floodplains create aquifers contributing to the river channel, which in turn rejuvenates the groundwater. But encroachments stop this two-way exchange.

The river is unable to transport flood waters downstream during monsoons, wet the lands or deposit soil along its banks to preserve the riverine ecosystem.

What do encroachments do?

Floodplains also protect against devastating flash floods by allowing excess water to spread out and storing that surplus.

However, encroachments restrict the river to a small channel. Any intense rainfall activity (India received 26% more rainfall in July than expected) swells the river, expanding in height not in width, eventually spilling over with devastating intensity. Climate change has intensified rains in frequency and severity, and seen in the Yamuna floods, runoff water comes as a huge gushing flow in a small span of time.

Dr. Dutta notes that "floods are inseparable from the hydrological cycle and are required for sediment transport, cleaning the riverbed, rejuvenating the river itself."

"The concept of floodplain zoning is not mainstreamed in the Master Plan," he adds, and authorities haven't yet "taken cognisance of the river's right to expand." This gap, along with poorly implemented policies, frees up river land for private and public real estate. "The common property land — the river's land — is open to auction and revenue generation. It's a tragedy of commons because the river's land has not been properly defined."

A model draft Bill for defining floodplains and zoning was circulated in 1975. Only four States have drafted a National Floodplains Zoning Policy so far.

It is "reductive" to locate floodplains as a site of conflict between development and nature, says Dr. Dutta. Instead, action can be focused on creating climate-resilient infrastructures, de-silting drains, creating green areas and improving drainage systems. "You cannot police a river," he says.

THE GIST

Battered by heavy rains, the Yamuna looks slow, sluggish, swollen. Last week, the water levels hit a 60-year-high, gushing through elite neighbourhoods built close to the floodplains, including Civil Lines, Rajghat and the Supreme Court.

Causes, experts argue, can be traced to haphazard construction activities, urbanisation, lack of proper housing and lax regulations — all of which have besieged the floodplains.

The Yamuna floodplain was designated as a protected area free from construction in the Delhi Masterplan of 1962. The Central Ground Water Authority in 2000 also notified the floodplains as 'protected' for groundwater management.

LG on late night checks of city's facelift

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena is leaving no stone unturned in preparing the city for the forthcoming G20 summit. In his unique approach to reviewing and inspecting maintenance and makeover efforts, Saxena has been personally visiting and assessing roads and stretches associated with the prestigious event during late-night outings.

To minimize inconvenience to the public and avoid disrupting traffic, Saxena ventures out of Raj Niwas in the late evening (9:30 PM) for two to three hours. On July 25, he inspected the stretch between Dhaula Kuan and 11 Murti on Sardar Patel Road.

The next night, he visited the Mother Teresa Crescent stretch from 11 Murti to Teen Murti Round About, Teen Murti Marg, and Akbar Road.



Approximately 60 roads and stretches, earmarked for use by G20 delegates, are undergoing extensive sprucing up. The Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the Chief Secretary

and officials from the Public Works Department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Delhi Development Authority, will continue visiting these

areas during late-night hours until August 30. Their goal is to ensure last-minute cleanliness, repair pavements, and enhance greenery. During his recent visits, the LG lauded the

work undertaken by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and expressed hope that the final touches to spruce up the city will be completed soon.

Apart from making the city ready for the G20 Summit, these efforts aim to maintain long-term preparedness. VK Saxena's on-ground initiatives have already led to a thorough makeover of the stretch between Dhaula Kuan and IGI Airport.

Additionally, he has been actively involved in supervising operations during recent floods, such as at the flooded Raj Ghat and the site of the collapsed Regulator No.12 opposite the WHO Building. During his late-night outings, the LG is accompanied by three vehicles carrying flower pots to be placed at suitable locations, workmen for minor repairs, and machinery for tree pruning where necessary.

अमर उजाला

नई दिल्ली | शुक्रवार, 28 जुलाई 2023

झुग्गी निवासियों को आवंटित फ्लैटों में धांधली का आरोप

नई दिल्ली। आप ने दिल्ली के झुग्गी निवासियों को आवंटित फ्लैट में धांधली का आरोप लगाया है। आप विधायक राजेश गुप्ता ने कहा कि 'जहां झुग्गी-वर्ही मकान' के तहत आवंटित फ्लैट्स में धांधली करूँ, केंद्र सरकार वहां रह रहे गरीबों को दिल्ली से भेगा रही है।

डीडीए की ओर से इस योजना के तहत वजीरपुर विधानसभा क्षेत्र में बनाए फ्लैट्स के आवंटियों को

1,76,400 रुपये जमा करने को कहा गया है।

गुप्ता ने कहा कि 20 सालों से झुग्गियों में रह रहे पात्र लोग आज भी धक्के खा रहे हैं। डीडीए का कहना है कि

आवंटियों को 1,76,400 रुपये जमा करने होंगे, लेकिन गरीबों के लिए यह मुर्कान नहीं है। ब्यूरो

जी-20 : सौंदर्यीकरण के काम में तेजी लाएं अधिकारी : एलजी

नई दिल्ली। जी-20 सम्मेलन को देखते हुए चल रहे सौंदर्यीकरण के कार्यों को जल्द पूरा करवाने के लिए उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना ने देर रात मौके पर निरीक्षण कर दिशा-निर्देश दिए।

उन्होंने अधिकारियों से कहा कि जनता को कोई असुविधा न हो। साथ ही, किसी भी प्रकार से यातायात बाधित न हो। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि उपराज्यपाल सरदार पटेल रोड पर धौला कुआं और 11 मूर्ति के बीच बन रहे खंड का दौरा करने पहुंचे। इसके बाद उन्होंने मदन टेरसा क्रिसेंट पर 11 मूर्ति से तीन मूर्ति राउंड अबाउट, तीन मूर्ति मार्ग और अकबर रोड तक के खंड



का दौरा किया। सम्मेलन में शामिल होने आ रहे प्रतिनिधि नई दिल्ली की करीब 60 प्रमुख सड़कों का इस्तेमाल करेंगे। ऐसे में इन सड़कों का सौंदर्यीकरण किया जा रहा है। उपराज्यपाल ने कहा कि वे खुद मुख्य सचिव, लोक निर्माण विभाग, डीडीए, नई दिल्ली नगर परिषद, निगम के अधिकारियों के साथ 30 अगस्त तक क्षेत्र का दौरा कर सौंदर्यीकरण कार्यों को पूरा करवाएंगे। ब्यूरो