

Treated drain water, solar power for new high-rises, says DDA VC

Over 24L Housing Units To Come Up By 2022; DDA Harnessing Tech For Infra

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New Delhi: The choice is between planned and unplanned development to meet the city's housing needs, says DDA vice-chairperson Balvinder Kumar to silence critics of the land pooling policy. While some urban planners say it will put strain on the infrastructure, DDA says it is easier to provide basic amenities like water, sewer and electricity in planned areas as compared to unauthorised colonies.

The land pooling policy, notified by the Union urban development ministry on Tuesday, will result in a housing boom as 24-25 lakh housing units will come up in the next few years. DDA officials say that areas under this policy will witness coming up of highrises which will be at least 5-16 storeys high. According to a rough estimate,

CHECKING UNPLANNED GROWTH

DDA VC says choice between planned & unplanned development. Easier to provide basic amenities in planned areas rather than illegal colonies



Policy for solar power generation to be implemented

Najafgarh drain water will be treated to provide drinking water. Same model to be followed elsewhere.

Rainwater harvesting for storing treated water in large reservoirs

Housing projects under land pooling to be constructed on green building, zero-discharge principle

DDA to appoint consultants who will help in creating facilities for basic amenities

DDA plans to develop 2.5 lakh housing units in an area of 1,000 hectares. There is 20,000 hectares of land available in the city which can be urbanized, say officials. They say these projects will come up only by 2022 as developers will be given sev-

en years to complete the work. Experts say such sudden and rapid growth will worsen the water and power crisis in the city. Citing Dwarka's example, people say the new planned areas will face a similar crunch in water, power and other basic

amenities. "Almost over a decade after developing Dwarka sub-city, DDA had failed to provide adequate water. It was only after seven years of struggle that Dwarka residents managed to get water supply from Delhi Jal Board. For over a decade, DDA used to supply just 2-3 mgd of water as against a requirement of 15-16 mgd," said Rejimon CK, former president and founding member of Dwarka Forum. Even now, a majority of societies there are dependent on ground water.

DDA officials admit that supplying water and electricity in these areas will be the main challenge. "We can let Delhi grow in an unplanned manner as people will construct houses to meet their requirement or we can provide planned development. Today, technology is available to meet the water and electricity requirement. We will appoint project manage-

ment consultants who will assist us in developing infrastructure for this," said Balvinder Kumar. The government is struggling to regularize 1639 unauthorised colonies which had come up in absence of a proper housing policy. Land pooling will limit the scope of unauthorised construction.

The water problem is acute in Najafgarh, Dichaon Kalan, Nangli Sakrawat, Baprola, Bakkarwala etc where the main project are likely to come up. It may sound bizarre but DDA plans to treat the Najafgarh drain water to meet the demand in an area where the water table is quite low.

"We will treat the Najafgarh drain water. It will be used for drinking and other purposes," says the VC. Reservoirs storing rainwater will also fulfill the demand. For power, he once again cites technology, saying solar energy will be harnessed.

Tomar cleared LLB in 4 yrs, high court told

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New Delhi: Delhi law minister Jitendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday informed the Delhi high court that he completed his law degree from a Bihar college. Tomar, who was present in court, apprised Justice Rajiv Shakdher that he had gone to hand over the documents.

Meanwhile, a Delhi Police team that had gone to Munger in order to verify certificates produced by Tomar has seized a few documents which were found to have some discrepan-

cies. These are being verified. Though senior officers did not confirm it, police sources say that a team was sent to Tomar's hometown to check his degrees from a Bihar university. BCD had sent a written complaint to the DCP (South), seeking a "detailed investigation". A team has been formed and it has been asked to submit a report by Thursday.

port against him and the material available with the Council. On Wednesday, Justice Shakdher ordered BCD to hand over the documents. Appearing for Tomar, senior advocate A S Chandhiok cited the affidavit to argue that Tomar's degrees are genuine. The Munger college has, in its reply to court, said its records show Tomar cleared the three-year LLB in 1994-98 with one gap year. The college has annexed its attendance details to reiterate that Tomar was a bona fide student.

"The records reveal that Jitendra Singh Tomar... was a student of this college in LLB Part I, II, and III in the session 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98, respectively," the affidavit filed by the institute's principal said. Tomar moved court seeking direction to Bar Council of Delhi to provide him a copy of the inquiry re-

port against him and the material available with the Council. On Wednesday, Justice Shakdher ordered BCD to hand over the documents. Meanwhile, a Delhi Police team that had gone to Munger in order to verify certificates produced by Tomar has seized a few documents which were found to have some discrepan-



COLLEGE BACKED HIM

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CITY DIGEST

Thieves thrash cop, friend

A head constable, Sachin, and his friend Deepak were beaten up by a gang of pickpockets on a bus at Netaji Subhas Place when they tried to stop them from stealing their mobile. Officers said the men were off duty and were going home.

Hospital rapped for not admitting raped minor:

Delhi government on Wednesday issued a notice to Safdarjung Hospital for not admitting a nine-year-old rape survivor from Gurgaon though the hospital claimed that the family took the minor away against medical advice.

Delimit Mehrauli park land, says HC:

Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the city government to demarcate the area of the Mehrauli Archaeological Park from Waqf land within four weeks.

PWD asked to provide amenities to cops:

Unhappy policemen are not good for the city, Delhi high court has observed and directed PWD to expedite water, electricity, sanitation and other works in the flats meant for the personnel.

Mandate of spl cell still same: Bassi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi Police commissioner on Wednesday denied media reports saying the special cell will henceforth only handle terror-related cases and that it has been prohibited from tackling other crimes.

Commissioner B S Bassi was asked about reports that the name of the unit was going to be changed to Delhi Police ATS (Anti-Terror Squad) and that the move was an afterthought in wake of the Manoj Vasishtha encounter case.

On Wednesday noon, a few officers had said that the new unit will be headed by a joint commissioner-rank officer who will have a DCP and a ACP reporting to them. Sources said the strength of the cell will be cut from 600 to 300 personnel. Senior officers of the cell pointed out that such a move was not "possible and practical" given the nature and number of criminal cases the cell has solved.

Child rights panel put in charge of park upkeep

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New Delhi: Observing that importance of parks for children has increased "in an age of cable TV, Nintendo, Facebook and YouTube", the Delhi high court on Wednesday gave its nod to a new policy for their upkeep in the city.

"Parks are a crucial antidote to the unhealthy trends of city life and test-driven education mandates... the only place where a child can have a breath of fresh air is the park," a bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw noted, while giving three months to all civic agencies in the capital to implement a policy conceptualized by South Delhi Municipal Corporation.

In the process, HC disposed of a PIL it initiated on a letter written to it by Supreme Court judge Justice Kurien Joseph, highlighting the abysmal condition of children's parks in

Delhi. Writing for the bench, Justice Endlaw underlined that parks allow children to "let off steam" and "recharge their batteries" which is why Delhi needs well-maintained parks which are "inherently attractive to children because they permit escape from the tight strictures of daily life".

Such parks offer children "a sense of place, self-identity and belonging, as an antidote to social alienation, vandalism, and violence", Justice Endlaw added, lamenting that municipal and other governmental agencies treat "lightly and casually" the importance of play equipment installed in children's parks.

Relying on the SDMC policy, HC made Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights the nodal agency to ensure upkeep of parks. It said DCPCR will "from time to time

have the parks inspected and suggest steps to be taken to improve them". The child rights body has also been empowered to inquire into complaints about failure to maintain parks in terms of the corporation policy identify the guilty men and recommend administrative action.

In other important directions the court gave three months time to each civic agency to "designate an officer by rank, who will be personally responsible for enforcement or implementation of the said policy and who will be held responsible, in the event of any breach thereof being found".

The court directed agencies to prominently display the policy on their websites and at all parks and children's parks, together with the designation of the officer nominated for its implementation. The noticeboard must display name of the officer and contact details.

Uncle held for abusing 8-year-old

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An eight-year-old girl was sexually abused by her uncle in Timarpur in north Delhi on Sunday. The man has been arrested and booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The matter came to fore when the girl's mother asked her to go to her uncle's place.

The girl told her that her uncle had touched her inappropriately on Sunday. She said that, when she was going to the market, her uncle stopped her, gave her some money and asked her to get him a bottle of water. When she went to her uncle's place to give him the bottle, he made her sit on his lap and touched her inappropriately. He made her look at obscene photos as well, she said. When she raised an alarm, he threatened her of consequences. The man works as a security guard at a firm near Delhi University.

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