Outer Delhi set to get a 'smart' city

DDA Will Have It Built On 24,000Ha In Najafgarh, Narela And Kanjhawala
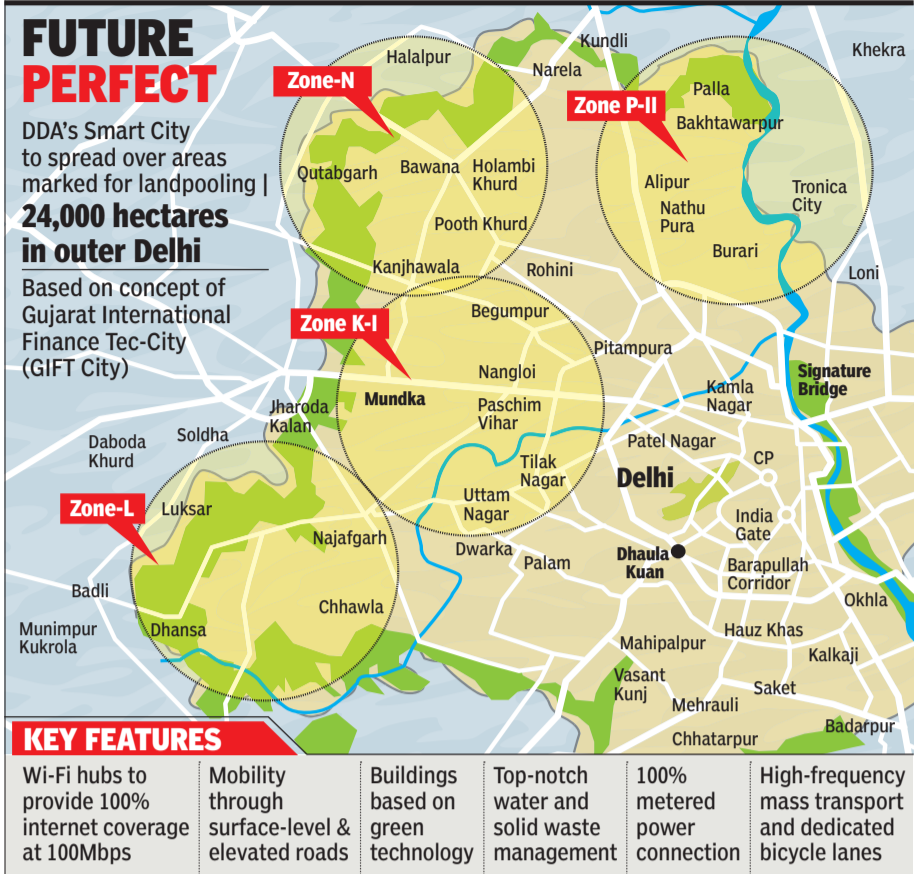
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New Delhi: Commercial focus may move out of New Delhi with big plans of Smart City development being made on the outskirts. Under the direction of the urban development ministry, DDA is preparing a proposal to turn areas they had identified for land pooling into a giant, integrated Smart City.

Around 24,000 hectares in Najafgarh, Kanjhawala and Narela will be converted into a model city. It will have, among other facilities, 100% power, 100% internet connectivity, 24/7 water supply, and high frequency mass transport.

Part of the BJP poll agenda, finance minister Arun Jaitley had announced Rs 7,060 crore for development of 100 such Smart Cities all over the country. DDA's Smart City project would be one of them. Officials in the Authority say that the proposal has almost been completed and will be tabled in the next meeting for final approval. Once it gets the nod, work on the project will begin immediately, they say.

"By the end of this year, we should be comfortably placed to start land pooling scheme in Delhi, and at the same time we would also have in place a PMC or a project management consultant. Our idea is to ensure that by the time the developer entities—those who pool their lands and begin its development—begin work on their own projects we should have the supporting infrastructure like roads and public transport hubs in making alongside, so that the two go on synchronously. We want to create a model city that can be replicated in other parts of the country," DDA vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar, who is overseeing the project, said. Development is likely to bear visible results between the next five and ten years at the end of which the Smart City should be functional, Kumar said.

FUTURE PERFECT

DDA's Smart City to spread over areas marked for landpooling | **24,000 hectares in outer Delhi**

Based on concept of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)

Zone-N · Zone P-II · Zone K-I · Zone-L · Mundka · Signature Bridge · Delhi · Dhaula Kuan

KEY FEATURES

Wi-Fi hubs to provide 100% internet coverage at 100Mbps	Mobility through surface-level & elevated roads	Buildings based on green technology	Top-notch water and solid waste management	100% metered power connection	High-frequency mass transport and dedicated bicycle lanes

As a model, DDA has picked the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City as it is otherwise known as, which was the first Smart City commissioned by Narendra Modi as part of the 100 Smart City campaign.

"There is a lot to learn from the manner in which GIFT City is shaping up. The area where it's coming up is barren like Outer Delhi, so we will try to replicate their efforts of water regeneration and recycling. For this we have decided to appoint a world-class consultant who will advise us in water conservation, and another consultant to advise us on solid waste treatment facilities. Smart City will be a model not only in technical advancement but also in its approach towards utilizing precious natural resources like water," Kumar said.

The Smart City in Delhi, for which DDA has been given charge, will have to fulfil the set of parameters that define a standard Smart City. These include dedicated bicycle lanes, high frequency mass transport, 24x7 water and power supplies to all households, no waterlogging incidents in a year, 100% internet coverage, 30 minutes emergency medical response time, and facilities like parks, retail outlets, parks, schools, and recreational areas to be located within 400 metres of 95% households.

Hospital liftman arrested for assaulting disabled girl

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A liftman working in GB Pant Hospital has been arrested and charged with sexually abusing a 15-year-old mentally challenged girl when her father left her in the waiting hall of the hospital to get an appointment from a doctor. The teenager had shared her trauma with her father upon his return.

The father approached police on Saturday night after which an FIR was registered. Mohd Zafar (35), an area resident, was arrested within a few hours. Police suspect he also abused other girls and women who came to the hospital seeking treatment. "The girl was alone in the waiting hall during evening hours. The accused took her to a room on pretext of getting her examined by a doctor and assaulted her," an officer said.

Her father, who owns a shop in southeast Delhi's Jaitpur area, said he had come to the hospital to get a disability certificate for her. When he returned to the waiting hall, he

POCSO INVOKED

found her lying on the floor crying. She kept repeating that she wanted to leave. When he insisted she tell him what the problem was, the girl said that a man had taken her to an empty room and, once there, touched her inappropriately and also threatened her with dire consequences.

The shocked father rushed to the police post at LNJP Hospital which is nearest to the spot and narrated all to duty officers there. An FIR was registered under POCSO Act.

Scanning CCTV footage from the hospital, police identified Zafar and tracked his location electronically. He was nabbed in the early hours of Sunday from a friend's house in the locality. He initially denied the charge but later broke down and confessed. He was produced before the magistrate and sent to Tihar Jail. Police are probing if he abused other patients. They are going through Zafar's mobile phone to check if he had filmed the child. Police have informed the hospital authorities and are probing to see if there was any negligence on their part.

Second dengue death in capital

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Dengue has claimed its second victim in the capital. According to the municipal corporation, a 52-year-old man admitted at Max Super-Specialty Hospital died due to the mosquito-borne disease on October 10. Sureshwar Singh, a resident of Loni road near Shahdara in northeast Delhi, was diagnosed positive for the IgM antibody for dengue virus by the ELISA diagnostic test.

The first dengue death took place in Chhawla village in west Delhi where a 48-year-old man succumbed to the disease.

Cases of dengue have also gone up significantly in the last few weeks with the total number reaching 340, as on Saturday. "In the last one week, 115 dengue cases have been reported from across the city, which is very high," said a senior municipal official. He added that the weather is uncharacteristically warm this year post-Diwali which is conducive for the growth of dengue mosquitoes.

Officials said south Delhi is the worst-hit by dengue with 155 cases reported this season. North and east corporations have reported 68 and 56 cases, respectively. "The numbers are less as compared to

115 CASES IN A WEEK

previous years. In the year 2013, Delhi reported 4,402 cases during this period," the official added.

Many hospitals said they are flooded with requests for admission from patients suffering from dengue symptoms. "Not all cases required admission as treatment is mostly symptomatic. But patients confirmed positive for dengue are scared at the prospect of sudden drop in platelet count. Elderly people often suffer from co-morbidities such as diabetes, heart diseases and other such health issues and they need special care," said a senior doctor at Moolchand MedCity hospital in south Delhi. He added that they have received nearly 100 patients suffering from dengue.

A senior doctor at Safdarjung hospital said: "Normally, we would see a sharp decline in dengue cases post-Diwali. But this year we are still getting 2-3 patients daily."

Over 5,500 dengue cases and six deaths were registered in the national capital last year, according to SDMC, which compiles report for vector-borne diseases in the city. Civic bodies are continuing with preventive measures like fumigation, checking of breeding areas and awareness campaigns to control the dengue menace.

New projects for Dwarka

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday announced a number of projects—a football stadium, a cycle sharing project, 13 community halls and a cultural centre—for Dwarka. "We are going to implement cycle sharing project in Dwarka. This is for the first time such a project is being implemented in India," Union urban development minister M Venkaiah Naidu said here.

The minister said that cycling was very good for health and the centre has specially worked out this project keeping in mind a congested city like Delhi. "With the cycle sharing project ready, people don't need to buy a cycle," he added. PTI

Prez visit to CAG office throws traffic out of gear

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Traffic in central Delhi came to a dead stop on Monday afternoon when Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg was shut down for a visit of President Pranab Mukherjee to the CAG office. The one-and-a-half-hour engagement threw traffic out of gear on this major thoroughfare. Many commuters were stuck in jam for nearly an hour.

Police were on tenterhooks as they had been asked to cause minimum inconvenience to the public. They had even come up with a route map for VVIP movement. During a recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to AIIMS, they had allowed traffic to move along with the cavalcade but maintained a distance of 100 metres around the high-security vehicles. There were even no policemen in uniform guarding the road.

However, no such measures were taken for the President's visit. The snarls began around noon when vehicles heading for north and central Delhi were stopped short at ITO signal though vehicles going towards Vikas Marg were allowed to take a right turn. There was congestion as vehicles going left blocked the way. The hour-long blocking of the road led to jams that soon reached India Gate and Old ITO bridge.

What added to the problems for the commuters was the ad hoc traffic management as well as no advance warnings. As a result, huge tailbacks were seen in all directions. Though police insisted they had a diversion plan in place, it seemed to have had little effect.

Drivers lost patience and tried to take alternative routes, leading to a perfect gridlock. Soon traffic began crawling and then came to a standstill on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Geeta Colony Road and Vikas Marg. Even after movement restrictions were lifted, traffic woes continued for another hour. By this time, the epicenter of the jam had moved to the ITO intersection which usually remains chaotic even otherwise.

"We had deployed extra personnel to keep the traffic moving but being peak hour it took time for the snarls to clear up," said a traffic police officer. Police claimed they could finally get the traffic moving by 2pm but it took a few hours more for normalcy to be restored completely.

GRIDLOCKED: The scene at ITO on Monday afternoon

TOI photo

Nigerian held for raping girl from Nagaland

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 22-year-old woman from Nagaland was allegedly raped by a Nigerian national who had promised to get her a job at a multinational company and marry her. The accused has been arrested.

In her complaint to the police, the woman said she had met the man six months back through a social networking site during which he claimed to work with a multinational company based in Gurgaon. The man started meeting her frequently and had recently moved in with her. Since then, he started raping her and threatened her with dire consequences if she tried to escape. She told the cops that the man used to confine her to a room and beat her up if she refused his advances. Finally she managed to escape from him on Sunday night and went to the Maurice Nagar police station where she registered a complaint. A team of cops arrested the man from the house on Monday morning.

The woman was sent for a medical examination after which she was sent to a women's centre for counseling. A case of rape and illegal confinement has been registered. Police said that the woman had come to the city two years back and had completed her graduation from the Delhi University after which was looking for a job.

Leopard spotted in Mangar jungles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Residents of Mangar, a village off Gurgaon-Faridabad highway, have claimed they have seen a leopard in a densely-forested patch close by on Sunday. They have claimed that the leopard dragged away a cow, killed it and left a part of the carcass behind. This was one of those rare occasions when villagers have spotted a leopard in the Mangar stretch of the Aravalis.

There are, otherwise, many cases of cattle kill but villagers remained unsure as to whether or not a leopard was preying on their livestock. Some villagers campaigning for the protection of Mangar forests said the leopard sighting confirms thriving wildlife in the area.

Chaudhury Sukal, who owns cattle and has them graze in Mangar forests, said that villagers went looking for their missing cow and spotted the leopard. Fearing they would be attacked, they ran away.

"The leopard was spotted in exactly the same place where some real estate companies had staked claim to land, saying it is agricultural. We have been saying all along that the Mangar forests are important and ecologically rich. Now it's been proved that there are leopards here," said Sunil Harsana, a villager.

Snow Leopard Trust, too, has documented cases of cattle kill and pugmarks in the area. There were also sightings of the big cat near Asola Bhatti sanctuary close to the capital. Experts say it's a sign that the Aravali or Ridge habitat around the capital is critical to sustenance of wildlife. Forest department officials have said the corridor for their movement from Haryana and Rajasthan passes through Mangar towards Asola Bhatti sanctuary.

"More patrolling is needed here so that builders and poachers cannot disturb the habitat. It's high time this part of Aravalis is notified," another villager said.

MANGAR

RARE OCCASION: Wildlife thrives in this region