

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

NEWSPAPERS

DATED

## DDA to demolish illegal structures on road in Vishwas Ngr next week

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority (DDA) issued a public notice on Thursday for carrying out a demolition drive against illegal constructions in Vishwas Nagar.

"A demolition drive against all illegal structures falling on 60 Feet Road and its extension will be carried out from May 22-24 as per the order issued. Therefore, the affected people have been informed to vacate their premises before the action starts, else they will be responsible for any losses that may happen during the exercise," the notice issued by the land management department of DDA read.

"The affected families can move to the shelter homes located nearby, temporarily. These include shelter homes near Gurdwara Geeta Colony, Kasturba Nagar (near Jwala Nagar Shamshan Ghat) and Shastri Park (near DAV education and welfare society)," the department stated further.

An official said that illegal extensions had come up on the road and in the past, people had taken the matter to the Delhi high court but didn't get a stay. "The court had, however, given them time to vacate the properties," the official added.

The area MLA, OP Sharma, said that unauthorised encroachments were in the form of jhuggis and a few permanent constructions.

"The drive is aimed at re-

moving all such illegal extensions on this road, which connects to road nos. 57 and 58. While some jhuggis were removed by the authority in the past, others took the matter to the court. However, the court didn't give them any relief. The matter is being followed up by the authority for eight years. Removing these structures will help thousands of commuters who have to take a detour to avoid this stretch or getting stuck in the jam here," said Sharma.

He added that the action had been decided as per the direction of a special task force headed by the vice-chairman of DDA.

"The STF has been constituted to carry out the Supreme Court order to clear unauthorised constructions and encroachments from public places," said an official.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

## Waste water in pond inside reserve forest hazardous, says forest dept

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Delhi forest department has told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that a waterbody in Smriti Van has been filled with wastewater from neighbouring areas making it a threat to the flora, fauna and people.

The department's reply came after clarity was sought regarding any violation in the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, during a religious ceremony held last year in the pond known as Macchliwala Talab.

Last September, residents had told the NGT that religious ceremonies were held in the forest area.

The department said the pond was being filled with wastewater from the Mehrauli and Kishangarh areas, creating a hazardous environment. The department also pointed out several anomalies to environment norms in Smriti Van, which included con-

crete bases on the forest area and an unauthorised sewage treatment plant.

The department said that Smriti Van was a notified as a reserve forest and is under the ownership of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). An inspection was done in December last year during which no offence under DPTA, 1994, was detected on Chhath Ghat in Smriti Van, it stated.

It, however, pointed out the polluted water in the pond, among other violations.

"A waterbody exists in Smriti Van, namely Macchliwala Talab, spread over 5 acres. This waterbody is used for discharge of wastewater coming from residential areas like Mehrauli and Kishangarh, creating a hazardous situation for flora and fauna inside the waterbody. It can also give rise to water-borne diseases," the department said.

It added that for the sewage treatment plant, no prior approval was taken from the central government.

## DWARKA SPORTS FACILITY MAY BE OPEN TO PUBLIC BY JULY, SAYS DDA

Snehil Sinha

Snehil.sinha@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) sports complex in Sector 17, Dwarka, is nearing completion and may be opened to the public in July, officials aware of the matter said on Thursday.

DDA floated tenders on Tuesday to appoint coaches and trainers for the various sports facilities at the centre. It has also received permission for a water connection from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) recently -- which was holding it up earlier.

According to the initial plan, the complex was to be ready by 2022, but delays in obtaining various permissions extended the completion deadline, officials said.

"We should be able to fully operate the Dwarka sports facility by late June or early July. Final testing of all services at the facility is going on. The water connection has been done, but its testing at various places, filtration systems at the swimming pool, top dressing of the courts, and cleaning of the cricket pitch is going on," said a senior DDA official. He added that the football and hockey fields and the indoor badminton and squash courts are ready, and all gym equipment is also in place.

Spread across 23.7 acre, the sports complex is being built at a cost of ₹41 crore. Once operational, it will be DDA's 15th sports complex.

Officials said that the complex will not offer permanent memberships, but have membership plans for shorter terms -- one, three, and five years.

"We will also offer three-month memberships. And daily bookings can be made like at all other sports complexes. The membership fee will be similar to the Siri Fort Sports Complex," said the DDA official cited above.

The price for the three-month membership at Siri Fort is ₹5,060 for Indian nationals and ₹10,120 for foreigners.

The complex will also administrative and cafeteria blocks, and basement parking (which is also nearing completion).

DDA has another sports complex in Dwarka Sector 11, and five others are at various stages of construction in sectors 23, 8, 19, 19B, and Rohini Sector 33. They are all expected to be completed by 2024.