

MCD to map 1511 unauthorised colonies under revamped PM-UDAY framework

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has begun conducting aerial surveys to map and identify unauthorised colonies in Delhi under an integrated framework, which aims to regularise such areas on an "as is where is" basis and grant legal status to its residents.

According to an official statement by MoHUA and the Delhi government, the MCD will now issue Certificates of Regularisation, conduct surveys of vacant plots, and facilitate civic infrastructure development across the 1,511 eligible colonies.

According to officials, the MCD has already started aerial surveys and expects to complete them in the next few days.

"At least 151 unauthorised colonies have been mapped via drone surveys and satellite imagery," an official said, adding that remaining colonies will be mapped in the next 15 days.

"Key tools include the

MCD-311 app for geotagging and the MCD SWAG-AM portal for citizen services. As of April 2026, GIS surveys are being conducted for the regularisation of 1,511+ unauthorised colonies," an official said.

The Delhi government announced that the Revenue Department will continue issuing Conveyance Deeds for properties on government land and authorisation Slips for those on private land.

According to the official statement, starting April 24, residents who already hold a Conveyance Deed or authorisation slip can apply through MCD's SWAG-AM portal at mcdonline.nic.in/swagam.

The applicant selects their colony, confirms their PM-UDAY Case ID, and if documents have been issued, the application proceeds directly. Those without a Case ID are redirected to the PM-UDAY portal first.

The MCD, the Revenue Department of the Gov-



ernment of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD), and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have announced a revamped approach under the PM-UDAY scheme to address a critical gap that left thousands of residents stranded even after receiving their ownership documents.

The absence of layout plans will no longer block regularisation. An inter-agency cell of DDA, MCD, and GNCTD will prepare layout plans using satellite imagery, taking the responsibility away from individual RWAs, the statement read.

As of March 31, only

around 40,000 Conveyance Deeds and Authorisation Slips have been issued under PM-UDAY since the scheme's launch, a figure the government itself acknowledges reflects poor uptake.

The reason, officials said, was structural, as residents who received their documents could not get building plans approved because layout plans, which were to be prepared by Resident Welfare Associations and approved by MCD, were never put in place.

For residents wishing to reconstruct or redevelop, land equal to 50 per cent

of the right-of-way shortfall must be surrendered to meet minimum road width requirements — six metres for internal roads and nine metres for approach roads. FAR will be calculated on the original plot area but applied within the reduced plot. Where existing structures exceed permissible FAR, penal charges at three times the additional FAR charges will apply.

Officials said these amendments aim to shift from an ownership-only framework to one that enables both ownership and regularisation of unauthorised colonies through a single, simplified process involving MCD, DDA, and GNCTD.

Previously, the corporation has taken similar measures to increase property tax revenue, including conducting door-to-door surveys, drone surveys, aerial view surveys, and thread mapping to identify defaulters and send them notices for defaulting in payment of property taxes.

Time will reveal if leadership change in Karnataka is imminent: Shivakumar

HUBBALLI: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said time will tell if the state will see a new CM after the by-elections to two assembly seats.

Bypolls for the Bagalkot and Davanagere South Assembly constituencies will be held on April 9. The polls were necessitated following the deaths of senior Congress MLAs H Y Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa, respectively.

"Why are you worried about it? There is no need to make it an issue... I have already said that time will answer it," Shivakumar told reporters in response to a question about whether he would become the CM and if there would be a leadership change after the by-polls.

Responding to statements by some leaders, including Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, that incumbent Siddaramaiah will be CM till 2028, he said, "I'm not ready to comment on



statements made by others. I'm the party president... either the CM or I will have to speak on this matter. Other than what the two of us say, the rest is immaterial."

Asked about the secret behind his patience, Shivakumar replied, "Time will answer."

Recently, Siddaramaiah had said that the Congress government will remain in power for two more years and that he is the Chief Minister of the state.

The leadership tussle within the ruling party has intensified amid speculation about a possible change of chief minister after the Congress government completed the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20, 2025.

The speculation has been fuelled by the reported "power-sharing" arrangement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar at the time of government formation in 2023.

Dog bite concerns at Delhi Airport trigger advisory, Urges flyers to avoid feeding

NEW DELHI: Amid concerns over dog bite incidents, Delhi Airport on Tuesday issued a detailed advisory addressing the presence of community dogs across its terminals, while urging passengers to exercise caution and avoid actions that may provoke animals.

In an official statement, airport authorities said that several community dogs are living within the premises of all three terminals and are being regularly monitored, fed, and cared for by designated teams.

The care, officials emphasised, is being carried out strictly in accordance with veterinary-prescribed guidelines to maintain the animals' health and ensure balanced behaviour in high-footfall areas.

The clarification comes in the backdrop of a recent incident in which a brown dog reportedly bit two individuals and displayed aggressive behaviour.

Authorities said the situation was han-

dled in a controlled and humane manner, with the animal being calmed and safely returned to its familiar surroundings, in line with established animal management protocols.

Taking note of social media reports, the airport also acknowledged that another dog from Terminal 3 has been missing since March 26. Officials said they are hopeful the animal is safe and within the vicinity.

"Rising incidents of dog bites are a matter of genuine concern, and ensuring safety for both people and animals requires collective responsibility," the statement said.

Reiterating the need for public cooperation, Delhi Airport strongly advised flyers and visitors against feeding dogs in public areas or attempting to interact with them, warning that such actions can unintentionally alter animal behaviour and increase the risk of aggression.

TMC, BJP two sides of same coin; Congress going solo in WB 'Bees Saal Baad': Ramesh

KOLKATA: The TMC and the BJP are two sides of the same coin and West Bengal needs a new coin, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Tuesday as he hailed his party's decision to go solo after 20 years and show a "third path" to the state.

Addressing a press conference on the Congress' manifesto launch for the West Bengal polls, the AICC general secretary in-charge communications also accused the BJP of "defaming" Rabindranath Tagore and claimed that it wants to do away with the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana."

Recalling the 1962 hit movie 'Bees Saal Baad' starring Biswajeet, Ramesh said he is reminding people of the Bollywood film as it is exactly after 20 years that the Congress is fighting assembly polls on its own strength in West Bengal.

"The Congress fighting on its own 'bees saal baad' which is a booster dose

for the party... In 2006, we fought solo, in 2026, we are fighting on our own strength. So as the Congress president (Mallikarjun Kharge) said this is like a booster dose for our party, workers and the people," the Congress leader said.

He said that with the Congress fighting on its own strength, it is showing a "third path" which is different from the current path and is not one that the BJP walks on.

This is a big achievement for the Congress, Ramesh added.

He also hit out at the BJP and the Election Commission over the issue of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"You know about the Constitution, but few would know that our Constitution has 22 illustrations related to our history that were in the first two copies — Hindi and English — on which Constituent Assembly members signed,"

Ramesh said. "Nandalal Bose from Shantiniketan was given responsibility for it. Today, the family members of Nandalal Bose have been removed from electoral rolls through SIR," he said.

Ramesh said the SIR issue in West Bengal is a very "dangerous weapon".

"The BJP government (at the Centre) and the Election Commission have fired this cannon through SIR; we should be cautious of it. The matter is being heard in the Supreme Court, and we hope all citizens will finally be included in the electoral rolls," Ramesh said.

Recalling that three months ago, a special debate took place in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Vande Mataram, Ramesh alleged that the BJP's objective was to target Rabindranath Tagore by firing from the shoulder of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

'Unlawful' Ambedkar statue dismantled in Bulandshahr

BULANDSHAHAR: A statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar installed here in an area under the Khurja Police Station was removed at the authorities' intervention on Tuesday.

The state had been erected in a park in Qila Mewai by some locals without permission, police said. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Tejveer Singh said the police were informed about the statue on Tuesday morning. Acting on the information, the Khurja Circle Officer and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate went to the spot with reinforcement and had a word with the locals. "They spoke with the locals and informed them that the installation of a statue of any prominent figure is prohibited without government permission.

Maharashtra education board's divisional chairman caught taking Rs 20,000 bribe in Navi Mumbai

THANE: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a senior official of the Maharashtra education board after he was caught taking a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a contractor in Navi Mumbai, officials said.

The accused, identified as Rajendra Manik Ahire (55), served as the deputy director and divisional chairman of the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education at the divisional board office in Vashi, it said.

He was apprehended during a trap laid by the

ACB's Navi Mumbai unit around 1 pm, Deputy Superintendent of Police Dharmaraj Sonke said.

Manohar Laxman Pawar (50), who is in charge of the board's stores department, has also been booked in the case, but he has not been arrested so far, he said.

According to the ACB, the complainant, an electrical contractor, had been awarded a one-year contract for maintenance and repair of electrical equipment at the board's office. He submitted bills amounting to Rs 3,16,800 for the period between November

2025 and February 2026 for approval. However, Ahire demanded a bribe of over Rs 22,000 from him for clearing the bills, following which the contractor lodged a complaint with the ACB on March 25. During verification, the ACB confirmed that Ahire had agreed to accept a reduced bribe amount of Rs 20,000 after negotiations.

The anti-graft agency then laid a trap on April 7 and Ahire was caught accepting the bribe amount from the complainant in his office, they said adding that he was later arrested.

Prosperous nation only possible with healthy body, intellect: Adityanath

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that a prosperous and empowered nation is realised only when our mind, intellect, and body are healthy.

Extending his greeting to the people on World Health Day, Adityanath said on X, "Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the residents of the state on World Health Day. The concept ('sankalpna') of a prosperous and empowered nation is realised only when our mind, intellect, and body are healthy." He expressed

his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for such "transformative schemes" as PM-JAY and the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which, he said, are making a "new" and "healthy and prosperous" India. "Let us adopt a disciplined lifestyle and become the architects of a 'Healthy India - Healthy Uttar Pradesh'," the chief minister said in his post in Hindi. World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7 to mark the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948.

Mercury plummets in Delhi by nearly 7°C; further 4-6°C drop likely: IMD

NEW DELHI: Delhi on Tuesday witnessed a sharp drop in temperatures, with the maximum plummeting to 27.6°C, departing nearly 8°C from the normal for April.

According to officials from the weather department, the city's maximum is likely to dip further in the next two days before climbing up again by 6-8°C.

"Fall in maximum temperature by 4-6°C during the next 2 days and a gradual rise by 6-8°C thereafter," said the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Experts attributed the cooler temperatures in the city to scattered and intermittent showers in the national capital and neighboring states of North India, including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, reeling under the impact of a western disturbance.

At Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, the

maximum temperature settled at 28.8°C, departing 6.3°C from normal. A single-day decline of 6.7 degrees was reported at Ridge, as the temperatures dropped to 27.7°C, 7.4 notches below normal.

For Wednesday, IMD has issued a yellow alert for Delhi with a forecast of an overcast sky. A spell of very light to light rainfall is expected throughout the day, accompanied by lightning and thunderstorms, with wind speeds gusting up to 50 kmph during the afternoon and evening.

Delhi residents enjoyed a refreshing start to the day this Tuesday as heavy rain swept across the capital and its surrounding hubs, including Noida, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram. The sudden downpour brought a welcome dip in temperature, providing a brief respite from the usual early April heat.

'Manipur govt to hand over probe into Bishnupur bomb attack to NIA'

IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Tuesday said the state government has decided to hand over the probe into the bomb attack in Bishnupur district, which claimed the lives of two children, to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Addressing a press conference here, Singh condemned the incident in the strongest terms and said the act appears to be the "handiwork of individuals or groups with vested interests in disturbing the prevailing peace in the state".

He said that the decision to hand over the case to NIA was taken after detailed discussions with the state home minister and other MLAs.

Earlier in the day, Singh described the attack as a "barbaric act" and assured the people that those responsible for the crime would be identified and dealt with

firmly under the law.

"We believe the attack was carried out by those who want to disturb peace in the state. We have told security forces to apprehend the perpetrators at the earliest, even today if possible," the CM said.

The chief minister said that the perpetrators are yet to be identified at this stage and that a massive combing operation was currently underway.

"Security forces, including police, Assam Rifles and CRPF, have been deployed. Helicopters are

also being used. The culprits will be caught at the earliest," he said.

The bomb attack occurred at around 1 am on Tuesday when a bomb was hurled by suspected militants at a house in Moirang Tronglaobi area, killing a 5-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl, and injuring their mother, a senior officer said.

The two children and their mother were sleeping in their bedroom when the bomb exploded in the house, the police officer said.

Appealing to the public, the CM urged people to remain calm and not give in to emotions.

He asked citizens to cooperate with the ongoing operations and support efforts to restore normalcy.

His comment comes after locals staged a protest this morning and torched two oil tankers and a truck near a petrol pump in the Tronglaobi area.

They burnt tyres in front of the Moirang Police Station and destroyed a makeshift police outpost.

Security forces have been deployed in the area to control the situation, the officer said.

People also burnt tyres in different parts of Imphal to protest the killing of the two minors.

They stopped the movement of vehicles at Pangei and Khurai in Imphal East district and Langthal in Imphal West, and burnt tyres in the middle of the roads.

State Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam also said two persons were killed and five others injured in firing after a mob stormed a CRPF camp in Bishnupur district.

The agitators also torched vehicles and vandalised a portion of the camp

during the protest against the killing of two children in the bomb attack by suspected militants.



FILE PHOTO