

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LIBRARY PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

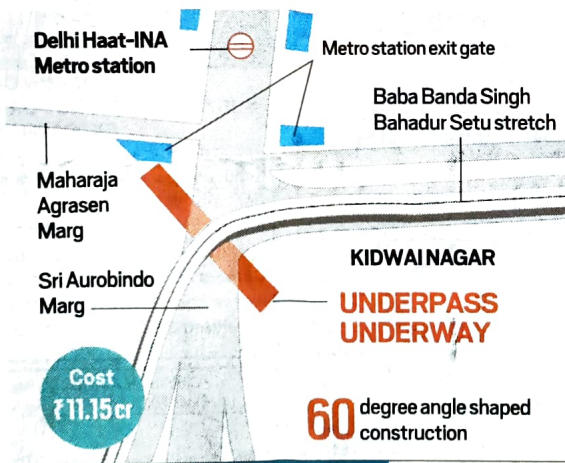
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

DATED



INA-EAST KIDWAI NAGAR PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS



FEATURES

- The underpass will start at Dilli Haat near INA Metro station, go beneath the elevated loop of Barapullah Road and connect to gate 4 of East Kidwai Nagar flats
- This underpass is expected to provide safe connectivity to pedestrians and residents of nearby govt residential colonies. It is likely to benefit about **3,000** families in newly developed NBCC society.

AIMS

- To provide a safe crossing facility for pedestrians and residents of East Kidwai Nagar government flats. It will also provide connectivity for NBCC govt colony and GPRA office complex.
- The INA-East Kidwai Nagar underpass is a part of the 'Traffic decongestion Plan of Ring Road and Aurobindo Marg (around East Kidwai Nagar)'



Tashi Tobgyal

CURRENT STATUS

Work started in Oct 2020	Estimated completion date was August 2021	Expected to open by Nov end
------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------------

SIGNIFICANCE

- Currently, there is only one subway located on the Metro's Yellow Line station at INA which provides a crossing facility for people of Kidwai Nagar and INA market and government staff in DDA office. But there is no crossing facility for newly built NBCC colonies across the busy Aurobindo Marg and Barapullah flyover. Thus, pedestrians from East Kidwai Nagar and South Extension dart across roads or walk a long distance to cross stretch



REPORTING BY GAYATHRI MANI

OFFICIALSPEAK

"Work started in 2020 but was delayed due to Covid and other restrictions. Most of the work is complete; remaining work on the Delhi Haat side and NBCC govt colony entry and exit side is in progress. Besides, traffic in the central portion has been opened to construct the part of the subway. Now, the work of shifting NDMC water and sewage lines is in progress and is expected to be finished in a week. By the end of this month, the pedestrian underpass will be completed. Shifting of NDMC water and sewage lines is in progress.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LIBRARY PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022 -----DATED-----

STAY WITH LOCAL

Top leaders involvement in Delhi municipal polls has drawn attention to civic problems. It's time to address structural issues

AS THE BJP and the AAP turn the heat on each other during electioneering for Delhi's municipal corporation elections, longstanding but neglected civic concerns have come to the fore. On Sunday, the BJP launched its campaign for the polls, scheduled for December 4, with roadshows involving senior functionaries, including party chief JP Nadda, Union ministers and the chief ministers of Haryana, Assam and Uttarakhand. The party, which is seeking a fourth consecutive term, has blamed the AAP-ruled Delhi government for the city's overflowing sewage and pot-hole-riddled streets. The AAP has, in turn, called out Delhi's BJP corporators for giving short shrift to the capital's pollution problems. The party's municipality bid too is helmed by its national leaders. By all accounts, the AAP is trying to give the message that the corporation's affairs will be conducted under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi Chief Minister.

Local body elections have often become arenas for grandstanding by national-level leaders. The Hyderabad municipal elections in 2020, for instance, saw fever pitch campaigning by top leaders of the BJP, TRS and AIMIM. Mumbai municipality elections have almost always been politically charged affairs. But such high-profile electioneering rarely means a filip for local governance. Instead, it denotes a tendency that's inimical to the 74th constitutional amendment's objective of decentralising civic governance: From infrastructure creation to hyperlocal municipal affairs — water and sanitation, for instance — almost every local civic body function is today contingent on funds from the state and Central governments. The 74th amendment empowered states to devolve the responsibility of key civic functions including town planning, land use regulation, water supply, and slum upgradation to urban local bodies. But in most Indian cities, these tasks are performed by agencies in whose functioning, municipalities have very little say — the DDA in Delhi, for example.

In the past five years, Delhi's AAP government and the Centre have been constantly at loggerheads over MCD funding. The city's new municipality act attempts to resolve the finance-related constraints of the local body by merging Delhi's three municipal corporations. It also reduces the role of the Delhi government, but then gives the Centre the preponderant role in the body's running. The BJP and AAP have focused on the right issues in the current municipal elections. But political parties must do more: They should direct attention to the structural issues that bedevil the work of urban local bodies.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LIBRARY PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Wednesday, November 23, 2022
DELHI

NAME OF NEWS THE HINDU

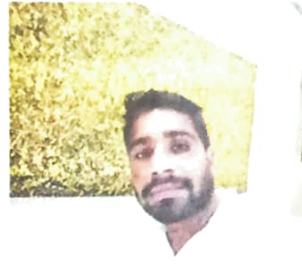
Two months on, families of sewer victims yet to get help as authorities pass the buck

Arnabjit Sur
NEW DELHI

More than two months after a sweeper and a security guard died after inhaling toxic gases inside a sewer at a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) colony in west Delhi's Mundka, their families are still awaiting compensation and finding it hard to make ends meet.

While one of the victims, Ashok Kumar, 30, worked as a security guard at the compound, the other, Rohit Chandiliya, 32, was a sweeper in the area. On September 9, Rohit had gone inside the sewer to clear a blockage and fell unconscious after inhaling toxic gases. When Ashok rushed to his rescue, he too fell unconscious.

The families of the deceased alleged that the two were asked to clean the sewer by a *pradhan*, who later denied giving



The victims Rohit Chandiliya (left) and Ashok Kumar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

permission for the same.

Three days later, on September 12, the Delhi High Court took suo motu cognisance of the incident. Since then, six hearings have taken place till November 15, including one where the DDA put the onus of paying the compensation on the Delhi government.

On October 6, the court had ordered the DDA to pay ₹10 lakh as compensation to each family. It noted that the Delhi government, as part of a separate compensation, has already

paid ₹1 lakh each to the two families. Nine days later, the court pulled up the DDA for non-compliance of its earlier order.

The DDA has filed a petition before the Supreme Court challenging the October 6 order directing it to pay the compensation amount and provide jobs to the kin of the victims.

Struggling to sustain

Pinky Kumar, wife of Rohit, who lives with her four-year-old son in a one-room house in

Bakkarwala village, told *The Hindu* that they have not been contacted by any official so far regarding the pending compensation. She added that she was finding it difficult to pay her son's school fees and run the household.

"We only received ₹1 lakh a few days after my husband's death. I have already exhausted all my savings," said Pinky.

Ashok's brother Ashish said, "His two children do not understand a lot about their father's absence as they are too young. But his wife and mother are distraught. Apart from the ₹1 lakh, they have not received a single penny by the government so far. All the family's burden has fallen upon his wife. I don't know how she will manage," he added. Meanwhile, a Delhi government official said they would disburse the remaining ₹9 lakh to the families in due course of time.