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## Clean Yamuna: Najafgarh drain's revival part of master plan focus

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**New Delhi:** The salient points emphasised upon by lieutenant governor V K Saxena while finalising the draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041 included the restoration, rejuvenation and cleaning of the Yamuna, housing and rehabilitation of weaker sections, improving intra-state transport and relaxing eligibility for genuine female beneficiaries for in-situ slum rehabilitation schemes.

While the rejuvenation of river Yamuna is a priority, reviving the Najafgarh drain, once called Sahibi river, is also important not only because it accounts for around 70% of the wastewater flowing into the Yamuna, but it also has potential as a new mode of inland water transport.

A Delhi Development Authority official said on Wednesday, "The LG had stressed that the water body should be developed in a way to facilitate medical tourism, meet entertainment and film industry needs and support the economy." The 57-km-long drain enters the city near Dhansa in southwest Delhi and runs through parts of west, central and north Delhi before meeting the Yamuna near Wazirabad. According to officials, two-thirds of the total wastewater discharge of Delhi flows into the Najafgarh drain.



Najafgarh Drain can also be used to boost economy, says DDA official

In January, the LG took a boat ride on the drain to conduct a joint inspection of the rejuvenation effort. Boosted by a budget allocation for the project, work has started on the 11.4km stretch from Basai Darapur to Timarpur in north Delhi.

At the meeting on MPD41 on Tuesday, Saxena also stressed on improving regional connectivity by strengthening the existing road infrastr-

structure of the city and improving connectivity through new roads such as the Noida-Jewar expressway, disclosed DDA officials. The master plan says, "All new arterial roads, including the national highways and the urban extension roads, shall include space for multi-modal, high-capacity public transportation systems as part of the right of way. The transit stations shall include plazas and

open spaces for incorporating the spillover of commuters."

The LG was also keen on developing housing for the homeless, slum dwellers and the weaker sections. "In fact, that was among the reasons why the finalisation of the draft plan was delayed," an official disclosed. Noting the problems in eligibility for in-situ slum rehabilitation projects, DDA clarified that the policy clearly specifies allotment of flats and dwelling units in the joint names of the husband and wife even if the allottee is the male spouse.

"This is aimed at making the female spouse a partner in ownership of the allotted flat and thereby empowering women. However, while allotting flats to JJ dwellers under the in-situ rehabilitation scheme at Kalkaji, it was noted that in many cases, there were only women occupying the slum homes because the husband was dead, missing or had deserted the family," said an official. "Such female beneficiaries don't have legal documents related to their husbands such as a decree of divorce, death certificate or declaration as a missing person by the competent authority."

A requirement was felt that this condition in MPD41 should be relaxed to ensure the benefits of in-situ rehabilitation were not denied to genuine female beneficiaries.

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## सनातनी मूल्यों की रक्षार्थ होली मिलन का आयोजन

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। कर्नाट प्लेस स्थित सिद्ध पीठ हनुमान मंदिर के महंत सुरेश शर्मा ने कहा की धर्म के चार त्योहारों में से एक होली पर उन्होंने कहा कि अनादि सनातन धर्म की रक्षा के लिए केंद्र सरकार को कठोर कानून बनाए। जिससे देश की धर्म संस्कृति जीवित रहती है। धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक भगीरथी सामाजिक मंच की ओर से आयोजित कार्यक्रम में चंदन इत्यादि लगा कर होली मंगल मिलन मनाया गया। मंदिर के विशाल परिसर में आयोजित आरती पूजन के साथ ही भंडारा वितरण में दूर-दराज से श्रद्धालुओं ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम में एनडीएमसी की सदस्य विशाखा सैलानी, डीडीए के सदस्य केके सिंघल, पूर्व पार्षद बीरेन्द्र बब्बर, कांग्रेस कमेटी में डॉक्टर्स सेल के चेयरमैन डा. आरबी सिंह, अखिल भारतीय राम राज्य परिषद के राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता प्रमोद महेश्वरी आदि मौजूद थे।