

BRIEFLY

CM clears projects at DJB meet

New Delhi: The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) held a board meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday and cleared several projects, including laying of sewer lines in Aya Nagar village in Ghitori and a water pipeline in Siraspur. It was also decided that for making infrastructure arrangements to procure raw water from Uttar Pradesh in exchange of treated waste water, consultants would be engaged by DJB.

Man found hanging

New Delhi: The body of a 24-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in North Delhi's Maurice Nagar Friday afternoon. Police said the man, identified as Lokendra, was employed with a contractor at Lok Nayak Hospital. DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj said, "His family said he was divorced and wasn't living with them."

Man injured in car crash

New Delhi: A man was injured after his car rammed into another inside the Phase 1 underpass on Golf Course Road. "A motorcyclist travelling inside the underpass seems to be responsible for the collision. He took a sudden left turn just after the underpass, because of which the driver of a Swift car had to swerve to avoid hitting him," said Head Constable (HC) Virender. The drivers of both cars escaped without any serious injuries, and have decided not to take legal action. **ENS**

WILL HOLD EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS: HARDEEP PURI

Firm behind Sabarmati riverfront beats five others to bag Lutyens' Delhi revamp project

Expected project deadline is 2024

ANANYA TIWARI & SHINY VARGHESE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

OVER A month after the Centre proposed an ambitious plan to revamp Lutyens' Delhi, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Friday announced that Gujarat-based HCP Design, Planning & Management Pvt Ltd will execute the project.

The firm, headed by Dr Bimal Patel, beat five bidders to bag the coveted project, which is expected to be completed by 2024. Patel's firm, set up by his father Hasmukh C Patel in 1960, designed the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, and the Central Vista and state secretariat in Gandhinagar, when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister.

The Delhi redevelopment project entails sprucing up of Rajpath, retrofitting of the Parliament, and demolition and reconstruction of the Central Vista bhawans. The sanction cost or consultancy fee amounts to Rs 229.75 crore, against the estimated cost of Rs 448 crore.

"I can say with full degree of confidence that all six companies submitted bids, which I can only describe as each better than the other," said Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bimal Patel said: "HCP's design philosophy is to focus on solving practical problems so as to make deeply meaningful structures. It always wants to ensure excellence in design, and robust high quality construction. The Parliament and Central Secretariat will be iconic but also highly functional. We wish that the design will say that we are proud and secure about our past, and confidently facing our future."

Patel's firm, which had

worked on the new IIM-Ahmedabad building, is currently involved with the Kashi Vishwanath corridor in Varanasi.

Early September, the CPWD had submitted a request for proposal of the project online and 24 firms showed interest. Finally, six bidders emerged, who faced a six-member jury, headed by Professor P S N Rao, director of School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) and Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC).

Apart from HCP, the other bidders were CP Kukreja Architects, Sikka Associates Architects, INI Design Studio, Arcop Associates Pvt Ltd and Architect Hafeez Contractor. "Bids were evaluated with 80% weightage to technical score and 20% to financial score," said Prabhakar Singh, director, CPWD.

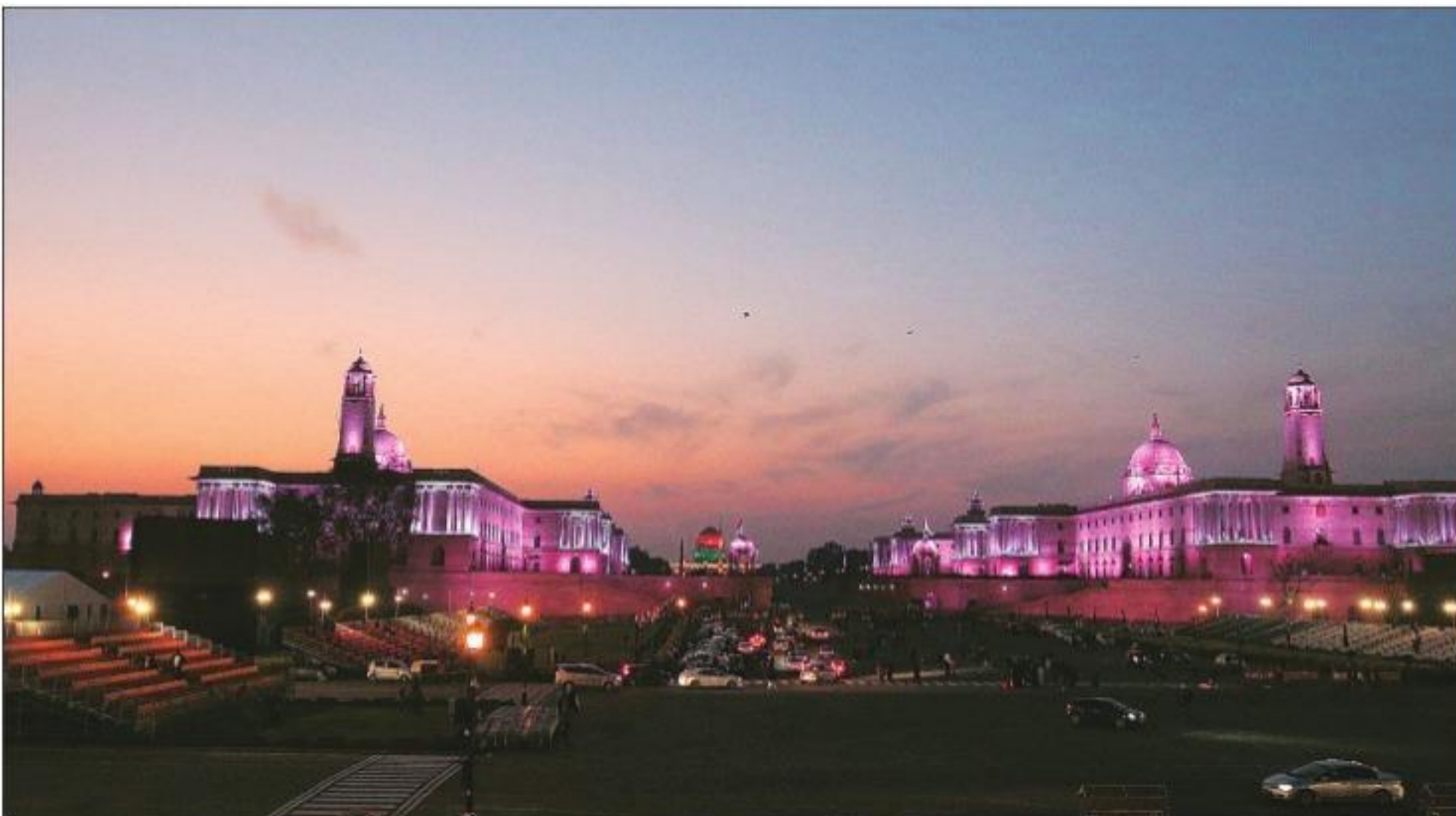
Some of the aspects that will be taken care of by the firm include developing the new master plan of the Central Vista, traffic integration, air quality management and green construction.

Puri said the firm will hold extensive public consultations with all stakeholders, and that the plans may be put up online for all to see: "The secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is also meeting those who were not awarded the tender. We will try to factor in their ideas as well."

He reiterated that "at no stage was it suggested that old heritage buildings be reconstructed... In none of the designs was there ever an idea to demolish the existing Parliament... I still don't know what we will do with the North-South blocks."

An official said heritage specialists and traffic experts will also be consulted, and green cover will not be compromised.

MoHUA secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said "... in 2022, the Parliament will be held in a new building."

Project entails sprucing up Rajpath, retrofitting Parliament, demolition and reconstruction of the Central Vista bhawans. *Archive*

Task is to provide new building for Parliament, a space for people to enjoy: Architect Patel

SHINY VARGHESE & SOHINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 25

FOR ARCHITECT Bimal Patel (58), whose firm — HCP Design, Planning & Management — has bagged the Lutyens' Delhi redevelopment project, this is not his first brush with a public building and designing its central vista. A Padma Shri awardee, Patel had designed the new office space, Swarnim Sankul, in Gujarat for Narendra Modi, who was the chief minister then, and his cabinet in 2011.

Swarnim Sankul was designed around the legislative building in Gandhinagar, with blocks on the north and south side so as to form an integral part of the central vista of the legislative assembly.

Patel agreed that the Parliament's central vista bears similarities with the Gujarat legislative assembly's central vista, but is not without its challenges. "Another task is to provide a great public space that people can enjoy, and create a new building for the Parliament. While the design has to create something that everyone finds to be adequate, the challenge is

**Bimal Patel started his architectural career in the mid-80s.** *Express*

also to finish the project in time," he said, referring to the 2022 target.

Patel is currently handling

the Kashi Vishwanath Temple project, expected to be ready by 2021. Another project that he is closely working on is the Mumbai Port Trust development, aimed at revamping the eastern seafont of the city.

He started his architectural career in the mid-80s with his father Hasmukh Patel. HCP was roped in by the Gujarat government in 1992 to design the High Court. With Patel's close involvement in the project, it was completed in two years.

Patel made his mark with urban development projects such as the Kankaria Lake Waterfront (2006) and the

THE TASK AHEAD

The broad scope of the consultancy is broken down as:

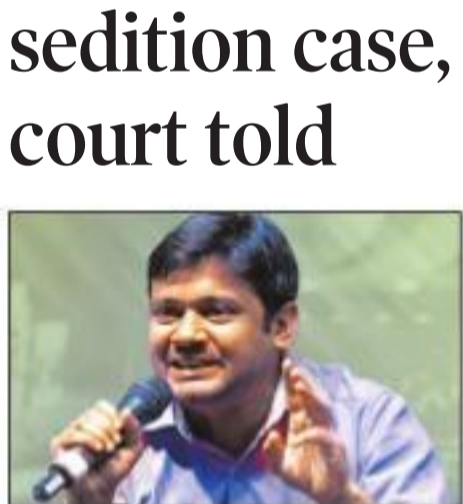
- Developing new master plan of central vista
- Preparation of landscape plans
- Traffic integration
- Air quality management during and after construction
- Parking and surveillance systems
- Solid waste management system and green construction
- Rainwater harvesting
- Designing & detailing of all services, amenities
- Cost estimation and detailed project report

Sabarmati Riverfront (2002). He also designed the new IIM-A campus in 2001, as an extension of the old campus designed by world-renowned architect Louis Kahn.

Patel is also president of CEPT University, where he has reimaged pedagogy and ways of teaching architecture in an institute that is over 50 years old.

Bengaluru-based architect and urban designer Naresh Narasimhan of Venkataraman Associates, one of Patel's contemporaries, said: "Bimal is a bright mind, and sensitive to culture and history; this project will be his crowning glory."

No word on sanction in 2016 JNU sedition case, court told

**Kanhaiya Kumar and others are accused in the case****EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

THE DELHI government's prosecution department Friday informed a Delhi court that the decision on whether to accord sanction or not for prosecution of former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in the 2016 sedition case is still pending approval before the ministry concerned.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana, who is hearing the case, was told that the prosecution wrote a letter to the Home Department of the Delhi government on October 24 in this regard, but has not received a formal reply.

The court then fixed the matter for further hearing on December 11.

On September 19, while observing that "judicial time was wasted" over finalising the issue of granting sanction, the court had said that it expects the Delhi government to make a decision within a month.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that the Delhi government has decided to turn down the Delhi Police request to prosecute Kanhaiya and others, as the Home Department is of the view that the February 9, 2016, event inside the JNU campus does not amount to sedition against the state.

Police, in its chargesheet, had claimed that Kumar was leading a procession and supported seditious slogans during the event held to mark the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

Man accused of harassment by DU student in 2015 acquitted

ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

FOUR YEARS after he was accused of making obscene comments and gestures by a Delhi University student, a 30-year-old man has been acquitted by a Delhi court.

In August 2015, Sarvjeet Singh was arrested by the Delhi Police after the woman's Facebook post — accusing him of making indecent gestures and obscene comments at a traffic junction in Tilak Nagar — accompanied by his photo went viral on social media. He was accused of being a "creep" who issued threats to the woman in front of a crowd when she tried to call police.

Acquitting Singh under IPC sections 354(A), 506 and 509, Metropolitan Magistrate Sonam Gupta observed, "Indisputably, a conviction on the sole testimony of the prosecutrix can be sustained. However, in the present

**Singh was accused of making indecent gestures and obscene remarks**

case, the complainant has made material improvements in her statements. In view of the same, the testimony of the complainant is not trustworthy..." Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Singh said: "I was branded a harasser; everyone knew my face. My father had a heart attack after I was arrested but he survived. These five years have been difficult... When the judge pronounced the verdict, I cried."

Post the incident, Singh said he was fired from his post as a supervisor at a private firm, and subjected to taunts when he was rehired. He had to change jobs often, and was fired once for taking

several leaves to attend court.

The prosecution had relied on the complainant's statement, and the witnesses were cops. The Delhi Police counsel had argued that all the witnesses have supported the case and, therefore, Singh must be convicted.

Singh's counsel Amish Aggarwal pointed out that the incident took place in the middle of the road, but no one from the spot was cited as a witness. Instead of talking to the police, the present case was filed by the complainant to gain publicity on social media, said the counsel. The court agreed with Aggarwal's argument and said, "No public witnesses were examined in the present case and non-examination of eyewitnesses, who could have supported the case of the prosecution, casts a serious doubt on the case of the prosecution... when the version of the complainant is itself doubtful."

Singh said he is considering legal action against the woman.

Ola, Uber roped in to help rush road accident victims to nearest hospitals

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

THE DELHI government has entered into a partnership with cab service providers Ola and Uber to help road accident victims get immediate attention by ferrying them to the nearest hospital. This is a part of its recently launched 'Farishtey Dilli Ke', a government initiative to honour good samaritans who take accident victims to hospitals.

According to the plan, the companies will train and sensitise their cab and auto drivers on how they should respond if they find an accident victim on the road. The government has also sent an advisory explaining the scheme to Ola and Uber.

Senior health department officials said the mobile apps of the cab service providers will sport a separate logo, saying "Be Delhi's real hero", requesting the passenger and the driver to

**Rs 2,000 is paid to those rushing victims to hospital**

help the government in its cause. "The idea is to ensure that no accident victim is left untreated.... These companies have joined hands with the government to sensitise drivers as well as passengers. The logo on the mobile application will have information about the scheme..." Shaleen Mitra, officer on special duty to Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, told *The Indian Express*.

The scheme was implemented in February 2018 on a pilot basis and formally launched by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on October 7. Under it, the government will bear the cost of treatment of victims of road accidents and acid attacks at government and private hospitals. As per data, 3,000 people have benefited from the scheme so far. The government also de-

cided to pay Rs 2,000 as an incentive to those who help accident victims reach hospitals. But, in most of cases, people refused the reward money.

"No hospital can deny treatment to any road accident, acid attack and burn victim in Delhi. The government is closely monitoring hospitals who fail to offer treatment to such patients. We have already issued showcause notices to two private hospitals and are in the process of sending notices to three other hospitals," said Mitra.

As per the procedure, cashless treatment will be provided to any eligible medico-legal victim of a road accident in Delhi at any private hospital or nursing home, provided he or she is brought or referred or transferred to the private hospital concerned within 72 hours of the incident — irrespective of whether the patient was earlier undergoing treatment at a government or private hospital.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

FACED WITH the challenge of controlling air quality from deteriorating over the next few days, the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) Friday asked chief secretaries of four NCR states to ban construction activities between 6 pm and 6 am from October 26-30.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government has also decided to deduct salaries of executive engineers of PWD and other agencies if they fail to remove garbage and construction waste from their areas.

Chairing a high-level meeting, Chief Secretary Vijay Dev directed the departments concerned and municipal corporations that action plans regarding the city's 13 pollution hotspots be accorded the high-

est priority and action points completed within two weeks.

EPCA chairman Dr Bhure Lal, in a letter to the chief secretaries, said the construction ban includes hot mix plants, stone crushers and construction activities such as earthwork, which have potential to generate dust.

The decision was taken after the EPCA received recommendations from a CPCB task force Thursday on measures required to be taken under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which was implemented in Delhi-NCR on October 15.

"According to the task force assessment, the air quality situation during the next few days due to festival, meteorology, stubble burning is expected to be challenging. IMD has informed the task force that wind speed and directions will be fluctuating... On October 28, fog is also expected," Dr Lal said in the letter Friday.

The Supreme Court-appointed EPCA has also directed that coal-based industries, with the exemption of power plants, be shut down for the five-day period in NCR towns. In Delhi, industries that haven't yet shifted to piped natural gas are to be closed.

The authority has also asked the GRAP implementing agencies in NCR towns to be on high alert and enforce law for controlling polluting activities.

Traffic Police in Delhi-NCR have been asked to deploy more manpower to ensure smooth flow of traffic and impounding of "visibly polluting vehicles."

Strict enforcement of the ban on conventional firecrackers and zero tolerance to operation of illegal industries and use of unauthorised fuels has also been directed.

Following the directions, DPCC wrote to implementing authorities, including the Delhi Police, DDA and MCDs, to submit daily action taken report to it.

No space for infighting in party, says new Delhi Congress chief

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

WITH THREE months left for Assembly polls in the capital, newly elected Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chief Subash Chopra believes there is no space for infighting in the party. With him taking over the post, he claimed "groupism in the party" has been put to an end.

"There is no internal fighting now. I don't belong to any particular group and every group belongs to Subash Chopra. They might have a difference of opinion among themselves, but I am not part of any infighting. This is the biggest advantage for the party," he told *The Indian Express*.

A three-time MLA from Kalkaji, Chopra was announced as the DPCC chief by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Wednesday. First elected to the Delhi Assembly in 1998, he has held the Delhi Congress chief's

**DPCC head Subhash Chopra**

position in the past (1998 to 2003) and served as speaker from June-December 2003.

At a press conference earlier this month, Congress leaders Mangat Ram Singhal, Kiran Walia, Ramakant Goswami and Jitender Singh Kochhar demanded AICC Delhi in-charge P C Chacko's removal. They had accused him of "leaking" a personal letter written by Sandeep Dikshit, son of late former chief minister Sheila Dikshit, and demanded that Congress president Sonia Gandhi form a committee

to probe the matter. The party's disciplinary action committee has issued showcause notices to the leaders for issuing a public statement.

Referring to this, Chopra said: "That was wrong. An internal party matter should be discussed on the party platform... The party takes all this very seriously."

On the Centre regularising 1,728 unauthorised colonies, Chopra and campaign committee chairman Kirti Azad said both Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal were indulging in "shadow-boxing in the name of regularisation..., and throwing dust into the eyes of hardworking people of Purvanchal and others living in these colonies".

"The Congress government not only regularised hundreds of unauthorised colonies during its 15-year rule, but also began the process of constructing in-situ flats for those living in JJ clusters in Kalkaji," said Chopra.