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Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

Weekly Information Bulletin

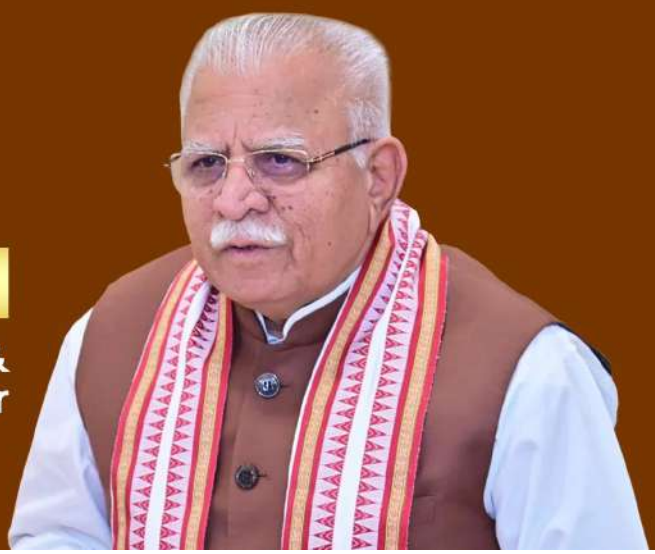
23rd October - 29th October 2026

8th Edition



Shri Manohar Lal

Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Power



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

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24 Oct, 2026

Shri Manohar Lal Highlights '3-I' Mantra of Integration, Inclusiveness and Intelligence for Transforming Urban Mobility in India



Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, attended and addressed the Valedictory Session of the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference-cum-Exhibition 2026, held under the theme 'Urban Accessibility and Liveability in the Digital Age'.

In his address, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the evolving role of urban transport in India's development, observing that while better transport was once considered an outcome of development, it has now become a fundamental foundation for economic growth and urban transformation.

Emphasising India's urban mobility transformation, Shri Manohar Lal highlighted Integration, Inclusiveness and Intelligence (3-I) as the key pillars for developing future-ready urban transport systems. He underscored the importance of seamless connectivity, accessible and inclusive public transport, and the adoption of smart technologies to make cities more sustainable, efficient and liveable.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of Odisha. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister also presented awards to winners across various categories, recognising excellence and contributions in the field of urban transport.

Shri Manohar Lal extended his best wishes to the organisers for the successful conduct of the conference.The deliberations and recognitions at the conference highlighted the importance of innovation, technology and integrated mobility solutions in shaping accessible, inclusive and sustainable urban transportation systems across the country.



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25 Oct, 2026

Shri Manohar Lal Attends and Addresses Valedictory Session of the National Urban Conclave 2026, Calls for Transforming Cities into Engines of Economic Growth





Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, attended and addressed the Valedictory Session of the National Urban Conclave 2026, held under the theme 'Urban Rising: Rethinking Urban Systems, Solutions and Delivery' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

In his address, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the changing landscape of urbanisation in India, observing that cities are no longer developing only around historical, religious or industrial centres but are increasingly emerging along highways, airports and modern transport corridors.

He emphasised that the objective of urban development extends beyond infrastructure creation to transforming cities into robust centres of economic growth, employment generation and improved quality of life.

Highlighting India's urban development journey since 2014, Shri Manohar Lal noted that the focus has evolved beyond roads, housing and basic amenities towards an integrated approach that places citizens at the centre of urban planning, with emphasis on sustainability, inclusivity and liveability.

The Hon'ble Minister urged State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to translate the valuable suggestions emerging from the Conclave into concrete action plans and work collectively towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.



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25 Oct, 2026

Shri Manohar Lal Chairs High-Level Meeting with State Urban Development Ministers and Mayors on Transforming India's Cities



During the 2nd National Urban Conclave 2026, Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, chaired a meeting with State Ministers for Urban Development and Mayors to deliberate on key priorities and strategies for accelerating India's urban transformation.

The meeting focused on the implementation and progress of major urban development initiatives, including the Urban Challenge Fund, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U).

The deliberations also explored new initiatives and collaborative approaches to strengthen urban infrastructure, improve the delivery of essential civic services and address the emerging needs of rapidly growing cities.

Emphasis was placed on fostering greater cooperation between the Central and State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure effective implementation of urban development programmes.

The meeting provided an important platform for exchanging perspectives and identifying priorities towards building more liveable, sustainable, inclusive and future-ready cities, in alignment with India's vision of transformative urban development.



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25 Oct, 2026

MoHUA Launches Waste Management Advisories and 'Swachhata Ke Superheroes' at National Urban Conclave

As part of the National Urban Conclave 2026, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) unveiled two key advisories to strengthen scientific waste management and advance circular economy practices in urban India.

During the Conclave, Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal released the Advisory on Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management to support Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in implementing the C&D Waste Management Rules, 2025. The advisory provides practical guidance on waste estimation, recycling, utilisation planning, procurement practices, dust control measures and the reuse of recycled materials. It also outlines the responsibilities of stakeholders under the regulatory framework.

MoHUA also launched the Advisory on Bulk Waste Generators under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. It provides a roadmap for ULBs and bulk waste generators to strengthen source segregation and scientific waste management. The advisory introduces the framework for Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) and offers guidance on registration, compliance, monitoring, certification and enforcement to improve accountability and promote sustainable waste management practices

Furthering its commitment to behavioural change among young citizens, MoHUA introduced 'Swachhata Ke Superheroes', a children's book designed to nurture the values of cleanliness, waste segregation, recycling and responsible waste management. Through relatable stories, colourful illustrations and interactive activities, the book introduces children to the waste management process and highlights the invaluable contribution of SafaiMitras in keeping cities clean. The initiative encourages children to become ambassadors of cleanliness and sustainability, inspiring their families and communities to work towards a cleaner, healthier and greener India.

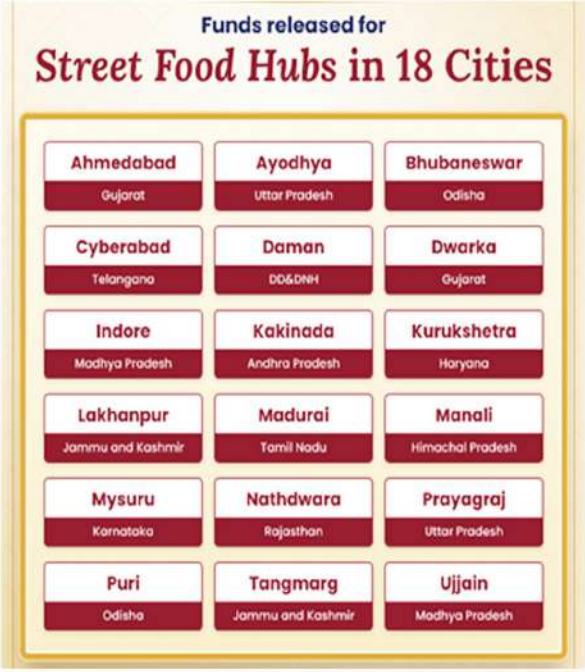


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25 Oct, 2026

Shri Manohar Lal Releases First Tranche of Funds for Street Food Hub Initiative

On 25 October 2026, Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, released the first tranche of funds for the Street Food Hub initiative covering 18 cities at the National Urban Conclave 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



The selected cities are Ahmedabad and Dwarka (Gujarat); Ayodhya and Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh); Bhubaneswar and Puri (Odisha); Cyberabad (Telangana); Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu); Indore and Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh); Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh); Kurukshetra (Haryana); Lakhanpur and Tangmarg (Jammu and Kashmir); Madurai (Tamil Nadu); Manali (Himachal Pradesh); Mysuru (Karnataka); and Nathdwara (Rajasthan).

Launched by MoHUA under the PM SVANidhi Scheme on 13 April 2026, the Street Food Hub initiative aims to develop up to 50 organised, hygienic and well-equipped vending spaces across the country. Implemented by the Department of Urban Development through a convergence approach, it seeks to strengthen vendors' livelihoods, promote local culinary heritage, ensure food safety and hygiene, and create sustainable food destinations, particularly in cities with high tourism potential. FSSAI will provide skill training and certification to vendors. Each hub is eligible for funding of up to ₹4 crore, with an additional incentive of ₹25 lakh for notifying the City Street Vending Plan.



24 Oct, 2026

National Urban Conclave 2026: MoHUA Launches Key Initiatives and Publications to Strengthen PMAY-U 2.0





The inaugural programme of the National Urban Conclave 2026, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, witnessed the launch of several significant initiatives and publications under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), reinforcing the Government's commitment to strengthening affordable housing delivery, promoting innovation and ensuring beneficiary-centric governance.The initiatives were launched in the presence of Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, and Shri Tokhan Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs.

E-Book: 'Mera Ghar Mera Abhimaan'

An e-book titled 'Mera Ghar Mera Abhimaan' was launched, showcasing the inspiring stories and journeys of beneficiaries under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0. The compendium captures the transformative impact of the Mission in enabling families to move from insecure living conditions to safe and pucca homes, ensuring dignity, security and hope. It highlights how access to adequate housing has empowered women, strengthened families and created opportunities for a better future.

PMAY-U 2.0 Awards 2027: Promoting Excellence and Innovation

The Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for PMAY-U 2.0 Awards 2027 was released during the Conclave. The Awards aim to recognise excellence in implementation, promote innovation and encourage the adoption of best practices in the affordable housing sector. They will motivate States/UTs and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to improve performance, strengthen accountability and develop innovative, scalable and replicable housing solutions. The initiative seeks to foster healthy competition and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, further advancing the vision of 'Housing for All'.







PMAY-U 2.0: 'Ghar Tak Jaankari' – Taking Housing Information to Every Beneficiary

A multilingual digital communication framework, 'Ghar Tak Jaankari', has been introduced under PMAY-U 2.0 to strengthen direct communication with beneficiaries and enhance transparency in housing service delivery.

Key features include:

* **Multilingual SMS Notifications**: Timely SMS alerts in 10 regional languages at seven key stages of the housing journey, keeping beneficiaries informed in their preferred languages.
* **Integration with BHASHINI**: Integration of the web portal with BHASHINI to facilitate multilingual communication and improve accessibility.
* **Secure Beneficiary Verification**: Consent-based Aadhaar e-KYC to enable secure and reliable beneficiary verification.
* **Transparency and Accountability**: Public availability of sanctioned beneficiary lists while ensuring the protection of Aadhaar details and other personal information.

The initiative marks an important step towards bridging last-mile information gaps and ensuring timely, accessible and language-inclusive communication with beneficiaries.

Through these launches, PMAY-U 2.0 continues to strengthen the affordable housing ecosystem by combining digital innovation, transparency, recognition of excellence and beneficiary empowerment, taking the vision of 'Housing for All' closer to reality.







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29 Oct, 2026

PMAY-U Marks a Milestone in Affordable Housing with Inauguration of 278 Light House Project Houses in Agartala



In a significant step towards the vision of Housing for All, Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, inaugurated 278 houses across two blocks of the Light House Project (LHP), Agartala, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U). The inauguration took place in the august presence of Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, who joined the event through video conferencing.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over house keys to the beneficiaries, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of 278 families. In his video message, Shri Manohar Lal congratulated the beneficiaries on receiving their new homes and described the occasion as a new beginning for these families. Shri Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, also attended the event virtually.

The LHP Agartala has been constructed using the innovative Light Gauge Steel Framed (LGSF) System with Pre-engineered Steel Structural System, demonstrating the potential of modern construction technologies in delivering quality, sustainable and affordable housing within a shorter timeframe.

Light House Projects have also been successfully implemented in five other cities across the country–Chennai, Rajkot, Indore, Lucknow and Ranchi–showcasing diverse innovative construction technologies suited to India's varied geographical and climatic conditions.

Under PMAY-U, the Government of India is promoting innovative construction technologies on a large scale in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Through the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India), 54 innovative construction technologies were shortlisted based on their suitability for different geo-climatic regions and classified into six broad categories. Subsequently, six distinct technologies were selected for the construction of Light House Projects across six cities.

The inauguration of the Agartala LHP is another important milestone in the journey towards providing modern, sustainable, resilient and affordable housing, reaffirming the Government's commitment to improving the quality of life of urban beneficiaries through technology-driven housing solutions.







Odisha Takes a Step towards Sustainable Urban Mobility with PM-eBus Sewa



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, inaugurated the first 25 buses at the Cuttack depot under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme. The event was attended by Smt. Anu Garg, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, and Shri Satendra Singh, Secretary (UD), MoHUA.

These are the first 25 of the 400 buses sanctioned for Odisha under the scheme.

Launched on 16 August 2023, the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme aims to augment urban public transport through the deployment of 10,000 electric buses under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. With Central Government support of ₹20,000 crore, the scheme also provides for the development and upgradation of bus depots and power infrastructure, along with initiatives such as accessible bus stops, last-mile connectivity and digital ticketing. It seeks to promote cleaner, more efficient and sustainable urban mobility, with priority given to cities lacking organised bus services.

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24 Oct, 2026

DMRC Wins 'Award of Excellence' for Innovation and Smart Mobility Solutions at 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo



The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was conferred the prestigious 'Award of Excellence' in the category of 'Excellence in Innovation and Smart Mobility Solutions' at the 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Dr. Vikas Kumar, Managing Director, DMRC, received the award from Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The occasion was also graced by Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Government of Odisha; Shri Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Smt. Usha Padhee, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha.

The recognition acknowledges DMRC's contribution towards advancing innovation and smart mobility solutions in urban transportation. The award highlights the importance of technology-driven, efficient and sustainable public transport systems in shaping the future of urban mobility in India.

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25 Oct, 2026

NBCC Showcases Urban Development Expertise at National Urban Conclave 2026



Shri Tokhan Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, inaugurated the NBCC (India) Limited stall at the 2nd National Urban Conclave and 19th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2026, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The events, organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, brought together policymakers, urban development experts and industry stakeholders to discuss sustainable urbanisation, integrated infrastructure and technology-driven mobility solutions.

Shri Ashutosh Gautam, Director (Projects), NBCC, participated as a panellist in the session "Right to Walk – Creating Safe, Walkable and Well-Connected Cities" at the 2nd National Urban Conclave 2026. He highlighted the importance of safe, accessible and well-connected urban spaces for sustainable and inclusive urban development.

Through its participation, NBCC showcased its expertise in project management consultancy, infrastructure development and urban redevelopment, reaffirming its commitment to building sustainable, inclusive and future-ready cities.



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Key News of the Week

The Times of India
(29 Oct, 2026)

Draft housing policy puts affordable rentals near workplaces in focus

Salil.Mekaad@timesofindia.com


Pravin Barnale

CM Mohan Yadav, cabinet minister Kailash Vijayvargiya during inking of an MOU at MP Urban Growth Conclave in Indore on Wednesday

Indore: For urban workers who cannot afford to buy a home—or prefer to rent—Madhya Pradesh's draft housing policy for 2026 proposes affordable rental accommodation near workplaces, including hospitals, industrial clusters and IT parks.

Chief minister Mohan Yadav released the 28-page Urban Affordable Housing and Habitat Policy 2026 for public consultation on Wednesday. Prepared by the Urban Development and Housing Department, it complements the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 and includes a dedicated affordable rental housing component.

The draft estimates cumulative housing demand at 20.82 lakh dwelling units by 2036, including 17.17 lakh affordable units. It projects demand for another 18.46 lakh units between 2036 and 2047, including 17.65 lakh affordable units. It does not specify how much of this demand is for rental homes.

"We know as the population rises, the need for housing facilities would too.

The policy aims at ensuring that the needs are fulfilled," additional chief secretary, urban development and housing, Sanjay Dubey said at the function.

▶Continued on P 6

The Millennium Post
(21 Oct, 2026)

2K WORKERS, 25 WARDS, 1,080 TONNES DAILY

A cleaner Central Delhi, powered by technology

SHIVANGI SHUKLA
New Delhi, October 25

THE PROJECT WAS FLAGGED OFF BY CM, WHO SAID MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENT MUNICIPAL SERVICES WERE NECESSARY TO BUILD A CLEANER CAPITAL

More than 2,000 workers have been deployed for Renvion's waste management project in Central Delhi, which covers 25 wards and is designed to handle 1,080 tonnes of waste a day. The project is being carried out in association with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) under a public private partnership (PPP) model, following a cost of service delivery approach.

The project was flagged off by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who said modern infrastructure, technology and efficient municipal services were necessary to build a cleaner Capital. The workforce includes operational, supervisory and frontline personnel. According to the company, the project is also intended to create livelihood opportunities, encourage women's participation in frontline waste management and provide scope for skill development. The exact project cost and MCD's financial contribution have not been specified in the information provided.

Spread across approximately 98 square kilometres, the project covers door to door waste collection from residential, commercial, institutional and bulk waste generators. Its scope also includes street sweeping waste, desilted drain waste, horticulture waste and domestic hazardous waste, including sanitary waste. Electric vehicles are being used for primary and secondary collection, with the aim of reducing tailpipe emissions and noise in densely populated neighbourhoods.

For the capital, the initiative is expected to strengthen waste collection and transportation, supporting cleaner surroundings and more accountable service delivery.

A central control room will monitor operations through GPS tracking, RFID identification, weighbridge based weighment, geofencing and infrared monitoring. A mobile application will provide operational updates and help address grievances. The project also includes Fixed Compactor Transfer Stations, Material Recovery Facilities and decentralised composting units. Renvion CEO Ishaan Alla said the company would work with MCD to meet the project's service commitments. The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Indian Express
(27 Oct, 2026)

Cruise ride along the Yamuna likely before Chhath festival

Alok Singh
New Delhi, October 26


Chief Minister Rekha Gupta with Delhi Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh during an inspection on Monday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

A CRUISE ride on the Yamuna is on the cards for Delhi. The proposed 'Namo Yamuna Cruise Safari' service is expected to begin next month before the Chhath festival, said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday. The project was announced by the BJP government last year.

The CM on Monday reviewed the Sonia Vihar-Jagatpur stretch of the Yamuna, where trial runs for the ferry service have begun. Cabinet Minister Kapil Mishra and senior officials were present during the inspection. Gupta directed the officials concerned to pay special attention to cleanliness, passenger safety and the facilities available to visitors.

"We are trying to launch the service before the Chhath festival. People in Delhi will be able to visit Maa Yamuna with their families, enjoy a cruise ride and have a new destination within the Capital where they can spend time together and enjoy a picnic," Gupta said. The initiative, she underlined, was expected to give a boost to tourism in the Capital, benefit local businesses, and create new employment opportunities.

Chhath, a four-day ancient festival dedicated to the Sun God, is set to be celebrated between November 13 and 16.

The proposed cruise service is being developed along a four- to six-km stretch between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in collaboration with various departments. The project aims to promote river-based tourism and recreational activities on the Yamuna, an official said.

Last year, in March, the IWAI signed an MoU with the Delhi government's Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FCD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Delhi Tourism and Transport Development (DTTDC) to develop the river stretch for cruise tourism. "It was expected to be launched within the six months of the MOU. However, the project got delayed," the official added.

The initiative envisages eco-friendly cruise operations using electric-solar hybrid boats, each capable of carrying around 20 to 30 passengers.

The boats will be equipped with bio-toilets, public announcement systems and life jackets. Floating jetties and other supporting infrastructure are also part of the project. The project is part of efforts to develop the Yamuna stretch for short-distance navigation and tourism while ensuring passenger safety and improving facilities along the river, the official added.

What is covered under the MoU

- IWAI spearheads the infrastructure development, including floating jetties, charging stations for hybrid boats, and navigational aids, while ensuring passenger safety.
- DDA provides land for shore-side facilities, last-mile connectivity, and public services such as electricity, restrooms.
- DJB monitors water quality, manages the barrage for navigability, and facilitates drinking water supply and waste disposal.
- I&FCD will maintain embankments, grant access to approach roads, and ensure adherence to safety protocols.
- The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation oversees operations, engage operators, and ensure compliance with regulations to promote tourism.

The Hindustan Times
(25 Oct, 2026)

[MULTIMODAL INTEGRATION] COMBINING PRIVATE, PUBLIC MODES

Delhi-Meerut RRTS increased 98.8% in a year: NCRTC data

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System has recorded a 98.8% rise in average daily ridership in one year, according to information shared by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

According to the official ridership data, the average daily ridership has risen from 47,745 in July 2025 to 94,936 in July 2026. The upward trajectory continued into September, with the corridor taking average daily passenger volumes above the 100,000 mark to 108,044, NCRTC officials said. The corridor has crossed 45 million cumulative passenger journeys, they said.

The RRTS operations began on October 21, 2023, on a 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai depot. "The corridor has expanded through phased openings since October 2023, gradually extending its operational reach across the NCR," an official said.

The opening of the priority section was followed by the opening of the Duhai-Modinagar North section in March 2024 and the extension to Meerut South in August 2024. In January 2025, the corridor was extended into Delhi, with the opening of the Sahibabad-New Ashok Nagar section. The remaining sections, connecting New Ashok Nagar, Sarai Kale Khan and Meerut South, and Modipuram, were subsequently opened in February 2026, marking the complete start of the 82km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

"Sarai Kale Khan, New Ashok Nagar and Anand Vihar in Delhi, along with Ghaziabad and Begumpul, account for more than 40% of the corridor's total ridership. These stations connect Namo Bharat with Metro, Indian Railways, ISBT services and city buses," the official said.

NCRTC officials said that the multimodal integration at stations improved last-mile connectivity and parking facilities have made it easier for commuters

"NCRTC has also introduced a live parking status feature on the Namo Bharat Connect app, allowing commuters to check the occupancy of parking spaces and plan their travel accordingly," the official said.

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Key News of the Week

The Statesman
(24 Oct, 2026)

DDA offers 1,648 additional LIG flats in Narela at Rs 14.95 lakh each

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 23 October

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will offer 1,648 additional low-income group (LIG) flats in Narela under the DDA Awaas Nivesh Yojana 2026, following an overwhelming response to the initial launch of the affordable housing scheme.

Online bookings for the additional flats will open on October 29 at noon through DDA's Awaas Portal. The flats will be offered on a first-come, first-served (FCFS) basis at a flat 25 per cent discount, with the approximate price of each unit fixed at Rs 14.95 lakh.

The scheme has been launched under the guidance of Delhi Lieutenant Governor and DDA Chairman Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu. According to the DDA, the earlier offering under the scheme received a strong response, with the flats being booked within two hours of the commencement of bookings.

The additional flats are located in Pocket 1, Sectors G2 to G6, Narela. Each flat has an approximate plinth area of 49.90 square metres, including common areas.

Applicants will have to deposit Rs 1 lakh per flat as the booking amount. Bookings can be made through the DDA Awaas Portal under the scheme title "DDA Awaas Nivesh Yojana 2026".

Those who have already registered on the portal will not be required to register again. The DDA has advised prospective buyers to read the official scheme brochure carefully for details of eligibility, payment and other terms and conditions.

Highlighting Narela's development potential, the authority said the area was emerging as a residential destination supported by planned infrastructure and improving connectivity. Transport links include the Urban Extension Road-I and II and GT Karnal Road, while the upcoming Rithala-Narela-Kundli Metro corridor and a proposed Narela Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) station are expected to strengthen connectivity.

Business Standard
(24 Oct, 2026)

ACCENT REGION

UTTAR PRADESH

State to get infra boost with 8,200 hectares land acquisition

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT
Lucknow, 23 October

Making a push for faster passenger and cargo mobility, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has drawn up a blueprint to acquire nearly 8,200 hectares for three greenfield expressways. The three major infrastructure projects are the 320 kilometres (km) Vindhya Expressway, the 145-km Meerut-Haridwar Expressway and the 100-km Vindhya Purvanchal Link Expressway.

The combined land acquisition process will entail expenditure of more than ₹15,000 crore from the state exchequer.

"The existing and upcoming expressway projects are positioned to accelerate Uttar Pradesh's growth towards becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2030," a senior official said.

THE THREE EXPRESSWAYS WILL PASS THROUGH 650 UP VILLAGES AND HARIDWAR DISTRICT IN UTTARAKHAND

The three projects are being developed by the nodal agency, the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA). The UP government has also finalised the alignments of the three expressways, which will pass through about 650 villages in Uttar Pradesh and Haridwar district in neighbouring Uttarakhand.

The largest of the three projects, the Vindhya Expressway, will require the acquisition of roughly 4,615 hectares across 109 villages in eastern UP.

The Vindhya Expressway will extend the 594-km Ganga Expressway to Sonbhadra via Prayagraj, Bhadohi and Mirzapur districts. Similarly, the Meerut-Haridwar Expressway will extend the Ganga Expressway from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh to Haridwar in Uttarakhand.

The project will require the acquisition of about 2,020 hectares across 184 villages in the Amroha and Bijnor districts of western Uttar Pradesh, as well as Haridwar district in Uttarakhand.

India's longest greenfield expressway, the Ganga Expressway, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 April 2026.

The Ganga Expressway, which cost the UP exchequer ₹36,000 crore, was developed by UPEIDA under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. It currently connects 12 districts in Uttar Pradesh: Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

Meanwhile, the third project, the Vindhya Purvanchal Link Expressway, will require the acquisition of 1,560 hectares across 140 villages in the Chandauli, Ghazipur and Mirzapur districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The Times of India
(21 Oct, 2026)

48 villages to be urbanised for planned development

AlokKNMishra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt will urbanise 48 villages to promote planned and integrated development across the capital. Most of the 48 proposed urban villages are concentrated in southwest and outer north Delhi.

"Delhi's villages are vital to our heritage and development. Planned development for these 48 villages is crucial to improving basic amenities and quality of life. Our goal is balanced, inclusive growth that integrates these communities into mainstream development while preserving their identity," chief minister Rekha Gupta said.

In southwest Delhi, particularly around Najafgarh, Matiala and Bijwasan, the plan covers Dhansa, Rawta, Jhatikara, Kanganheri, Ghumanhera, Shikarpur, Issapur, Kair, Mundela Kalan, Mundela Khurd, Bakargarh and Galibpur. The outer north expansion highlights the Narela and Bawana belts, including Bakoli, Hamidpur, Palla, Kulakpur, Rajpur Kalan, Tajpur Kalan, Mungeshpur, Auchandi and Shahpur Garhi.

An official said the decision taken under Section 507(a) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, integrates these 48 villages into Delhi's urban planning framework.

The villages will be urbanised after the notification is issued. "It will bring clarity regarding their urban status and the legal and administrative rules applicable to them," said an official, noting that all construction, land-use changes and development must comply with relevant building regulations, approved plans and necessary permissions.

Chaudhary Surender Solanki, head of Palam 360, an umbrella body of all villages of Delhi, noted that with all 357 Delhi villages now organised, none remain rural. "This move clears the path for long-term development if the govt implements its land pooling policy," said Solanki.

The Times of India
(24 Oct, 2026)

Centre to deal with all O-Zone related issues

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Central govt will now deal with issues related to Delhi's O-Zone, which is the protected Yamuna floodplain area. The Union housing and urban affairs ministry will coordinate with agencies on demarcation, land ownership and the status of settlements in the floodplain area.

In a letter to South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Union minister of state Tokhan Sahu said the ministry has held five high-level meetings with stakeholders on April 6, June 8, July 6, July 29 and Aug 18. In the latest meeting, DDA sought additional time to compile information from various agencies.

The exercise includes demarcating the floodplain and O-Zone boundaries and identifying land ownership and agencies holding title to the land.

Sahu said the matter was pending before Delhi High Court in a case involving Vijay Kumar Diwakar and South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Govt's further action will also depend on the court's decision, he said.

Bidhuri had raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, seeking relief for residents of settlements in the O-Zone. He said the area had govt buildings such as Delhi secretariat, Akshardham temple, Commonwealth Games Village and Madanpur Khadar resettlement colony. The issue raised by Bidhuri refers to the ban on residential construction, repairs and land regularisation in environmentally sensitive areas on the floodplain. Under the Delhi Master Plan, the zone is a protected riverbed and thousands of families here face the continuous threat of demolition.

The Millennium Post
(23 Oct, 2026)

12 WALKS ACROSS 6 CITY LOCATIONS

DDA signs pact with INTACH for heritage and nature walks

SHIVANGI SHUKLA
New Delhi, October 22



The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has signed a six-month Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Delhi Chapter, to organise heritage and nature walks at six locations across the city.

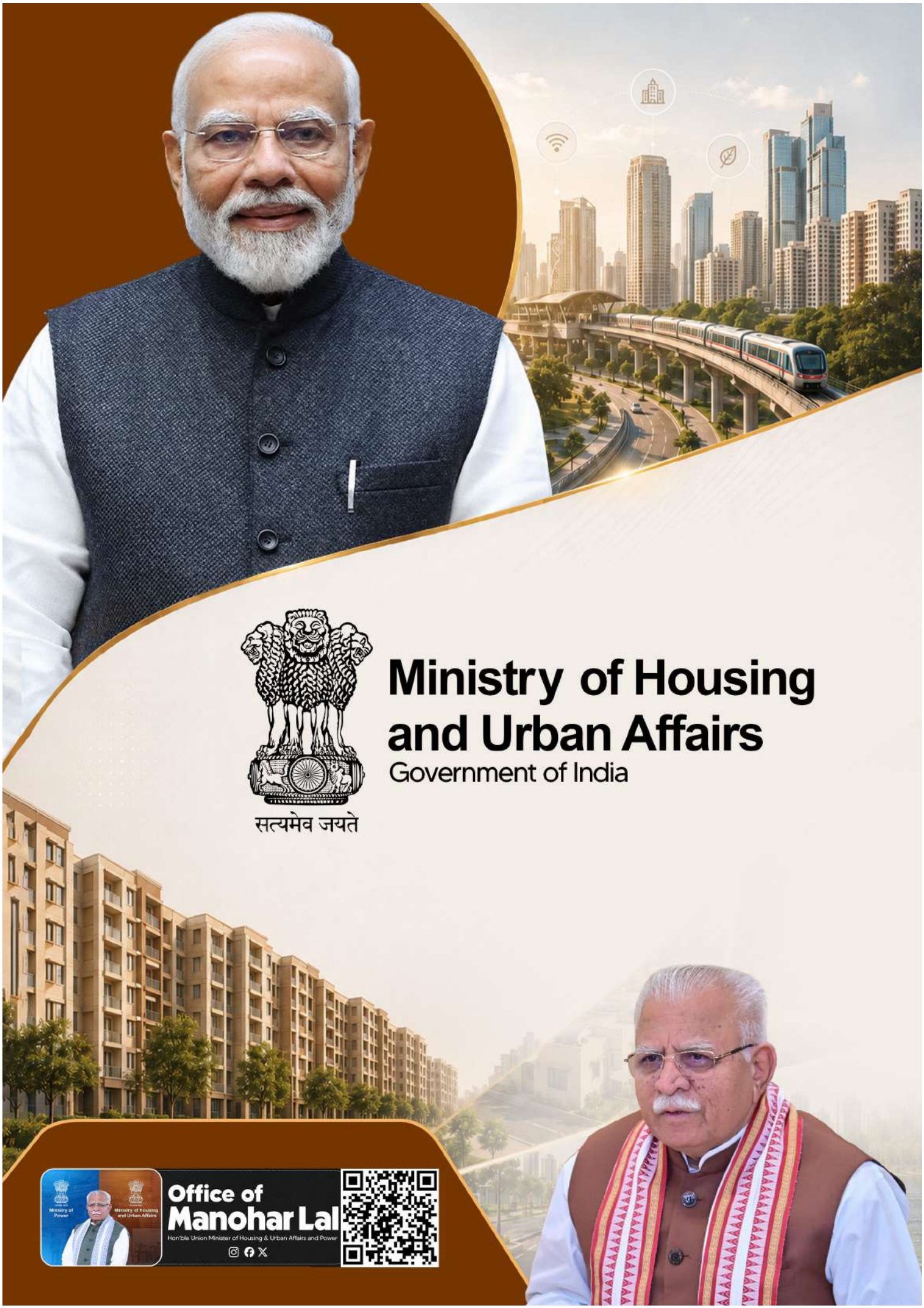
The initiative, undertaken on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, will begin with a guided walk at Mehrauli Archaeological Park on October 24 at 4 pm. The MoU provides for 12 walks, with two visits to each site over six months. The selected locations are Sanjay Van, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Sultan Garhi, Tughlaqabad, Deer Park/Hauz Khas and the Northern Ridge.

Each walk will accommodate up to 40 participants, with online registration available through the DDA portal. The participation fee is Rs 500 plus GST per person per walk. The first walk will explore the park's historical structures, architectural features and lesser-known stories.

INTACH will curate routes, themes and interpretative content and provide heritage experts and guides in coordination with the DDA, which will handle administrative arrangements, access and permissions.

Earlier this month, Sandhu led a heritage walk at Sanjay Van and launched an e-book on the Delhi Ridge, emphasising ecological conservation, heritage protection and public engagement with nature.

The initiative aligns with Master Plan for Delhi 2047, which promotes heritage conservation, sustainable development and cultural tourism.


सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India
Office of
Manohar Lal
Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Power