

# Floral Boards To Greet G20 Delegates

## 1,000 Trees In NDMC Areas To Be Decorated With Flowers For Main Events

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Hundreds of NDMC workers on Thursday began the process of installing floral boards at Lodhi Garden, Talkatora Garden, Purana Qila and Safdarjung madrasa nurseries.

With the last leg of preparations under way in Lutyens' Delhi before the arrival of delegates for the G20 Summit, NDMC's horticulture staff is working meticulously to beautify the area. In all, 20 colourful flower boards will be placed at key intersections and prominent locations by Friday evening, according to officials. They will all display the G20 logo and slogan, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Moreover, 1,000 trees in areas to be visited by the guests will be decorated with flowers for the main G20 events, said NDMC vice-chairman Satish



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Upadhyay. Additionally, 25 flower fountains will be prepared at busy roundabouts and junctions.

"The staff on Thursday printed the G20 logo and other messages on thermocol boards. On Friday morning, the process of putting flowers on these boards will start, so

these will be fresh till Sunday. NDMC has ordered a variety of flowers in bulk. We will also use marigold strings for creating fountains and wrapping branches of 1,000 trees," Upadhyay said. Trees at Akbar Road, Sardar Patel Marg, C-Hexagon, Shantipath, near PM House, Mother Teresa Crescent and Windsor Place will be decorated with flowers, such as marigold, gomphrena, chrysanthemum, asparagus, daisy, green leaves of Ashoka trees, among others.

During a spot visit to Purana Quila nursery, staff could be seen painting the logos on thermocol sheets. Gardeners will later place flowers on these using pins. Naresh Kumar, a gardener, said he had been doing similar work for the past 15 years. "I got training from my superiors from time to time to brush up on my skills. This is a challenging task as flowers

are biodegradable and start withering easily. We have to complete the work in a time-bound manner. The flowers are handled very carefully," he said. Another gardener, Jawan Singh, said making words out of flowers is more difficult than making logos. "Although they are already printed on sheets, we have to place the flowers carefully so that each word is legible. Levelling them is also a challenge," Singh said as he covered the boards to ensure they are not drenched in case of rain.

"It takes four-five hours to prepare one board and a team of 15-20 staff is deployed," said Upadhyay.

He said 1,200 staff of the horticulture department were putting in tireless efforts each day. "We have deployed special personnel, vehicles and tankers to maintain the work created by the field staff," he added.

# Landings at newest runway of IGI likely only after summit

Saurabh.Sinha@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The wait for Delhi Airport's newest runway to start handling landings has got longer and now the same may happen only after the G20 Leaders' Summit.

Airports Authority of India, which provides air navigation services including Air Traffic Control, was hoping landings can start on this runway—commissioned this July and since then being used only for take offs—from September 7, just in time for the summit. There were issues with the new runway's Russian instrument landing system (ILS) and a team of engineers from that country were here trying to operationalise it.

An AAI spokesperson on Thursday told TOI the runway (29R/11L) is "not yet" being used for landings. "Runway 29R is being used as departures runway only as of now," the official said. He said landings may start from September 11.

To be sure, the delay in using this runway for landings will in no way affect aircraft movement at Indira Gandhi International Air-

port (IGIA), which has four runways — including three that handle both arrivals and departures — for the summit.

VVIP aircraft coming for G20 are expected to use the two runways on Dwarka side of the Northern Access Road due to their proximity to Palam technical Area and they both can handle landings and take offs. While about 50 VIP aircraft are expected over next four days, scheduled airlines have cancelled and rescheduled many of their flights to and from Delhi from September 8 to 11. There are restrictions on private charters and business jets too.

"The ILS for the newest runway (28R/11L) was imported from Russia this May and there have been some issues with its calibration. A team of Russian engineers is here to do the work required," sources had said late last month.

Delhi International Airport Ltd plans to take the old main runway (28/10) once the newest runway can start handling landings. The old warhorse runway will be shut for recarpeting and is expected to start handling flights before the year end.

# TALL AND HANDSOME!

Anindya Chattopadhyay



A spectacular laser show at Qutub Minar ahead of the G20 Summit lights up Thursday night

# DTC services to be affected for three days

**New Delhi:** The DTC bus services in the city and to other states will be affected for three days from Friday due to the G20 Summit.

An official of Delhi Transport Corporation said the city services won't be available in the New Delhi area from Friday to Sunday. No goods and commercial vehicles, and interstate and city buses will be allowed on Mathura Road be-

yond Ashram Chowk, Bhairon Marg, Purana Quila Road and inside Pragati Maidan tunnel, DTC stated. Bus trips will be cut short for those going towards Nizamuddin station, Central Secretariat and Shivaji Stadium in high security zones.

Interstate buses will terminate on Ring Road and can use it and beyond to exit Delhi. Individual traffic will be allowed

in through Rajokri border.

"Only bonafide residents, authorised vehicles, emergency vehicles and passengers travelling to IGI Airport, Old Delhi and New Delhi stations will be allowed to ply towards New Delhi District," DTC said. On Sunday, additional curbs will be imposed on the vehicular traffic on several stretches leading to the main venue in Pragati Maidan. The

# With mega event set to start, LG inspects last-minute preps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday went on an inspection spree, reviewing the last-minute preparations for the G20 summit. Officials said Saxena took stock of security, cleanliness, beautification and other related works. He was accompanied by chief secretary Naresh Kumar, NDMC chairperson Amit Yadav, MCD commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, DDA VC Subhashish Panda and senior officers of various Delhi government departments.

The areas LG visited included Rajghat, Delhi Gate, Pragati Maidan, various roads and intersections in the Lutyens' Delhi, apart from hotels in Aerocity, a VIP lounge at Terminal 3 and the technical area of Palam. Saxena also inspected the control rooms set up by Delhi Police and NDMC's disaster management cell.

"The Delhi Police commissioner briefed the LG on security preparedness and details of the control room where live visuals captured by more than 5,000 CCTVs installed in different parts of the city, will be received," said an official, adding "Two teams comprising 25 security personnel will be monitoring the control room in different shifts, the digital information being beamed into the control room, round the clock".



Officials said the LG inspected the statues and fountains near Yakshini Chowk, newly-developed MIG Park in the Palam technical area and the VIP lounge at the Air Force station, where the heads of states will be landing and are likely to witness the fountains set up there.

NDMC's control room at Humayun Road, set up at the civic body's disaster management cell, is manned by senior officers and around 30 personnel are working round the clock to address complaints.

Sub-divisional magistrates, district magistrates and heads of departments, along with quick response teams from various departments, will remain present at the control room during the summit. NDMC has also introduced three dedicated telephone numbers for officers and employees on duty at the control room. "These numbers will help to address a wide range of needs and inquiries related to water leakage, fallen trees, damaged hoardings, broken footpaths and fallen leaves without any delay. On receiving the complaints, officials will divert the query to quick response teams," said NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay.

# Transit corridor main tunnel shuts 2 hrs early

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Following the G20 traffic restrictions, the Pragati Maidan main tunnel's entrance from Mathura Road is now being closed at 9pm, two hours before its usual closing time of 11pm.

Public Works Department (PWD) officials said police had asked them to barricade the entrance.

"The control of the tunnel's entry and exit are with Delhi Police now as it is close to the main summit venue. The rest of the transit corridor is open till 11pm," said an official.

The decision has increased traffic on Mathura Road near Bharat Mandapam, the main venue, and on Bhairon Marg, as commuters using the tunnel to go towards Noida and Sarai Kale Khan ISBT are using the stretches to reach Ring Road.

Near the tunnel entrance on Mathura Road, the stretch shrinks into two lanes, creating a bottleneck till the shrine of Matka Peer.

Decked up for the summit, the areas around Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan and near mega fountains on Bhairon Marg have been attracting people to click photos and selfies. Police personnel are seen asking people to not stop near the spots to avoid traffic jams.

"A board about the early closure should have been put up near the ITO intersection," said a daily commuter from Noida.



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