

# Act now to clean & rejuvenate 11km of Yamuna floodplain: LG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena, who inspected the Yamuna floodplain on the Shastri Park-Bela Farm-Garhi Mandu stretch in Northeast Delhi on Saturday, has directed that immediate steps be taken to clean, restore and rejuvenate the 11km stretch.

Saxena, who was accompanied by the chief secretary, vice-chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and officials of other stakeholder departments, had taken an on-site stock of the situation. Once rejuvenated by DDA, the site will develop as a one-of-its-kind public green space in the locality, which has been suffering the most due to unplanned urbanisation and degradation. The area adjoins localities such as Seelampur, Shastri Park and Shahdara.

Though DDA was instructed to ensure plantation of one lakh trees at the Shastri Park site, the entire 11km stretch on the eastern bank, upstream from Shastri Park to Garhi Mandu, will undergo a thorough makeover.

The rejuvenation work on the hitherto neglected Yamuna floodplain in northeast Delhi will include physical cleaning of the banks by removing garbage, dumped construction and demolition (C&D) waste, animal waste and encroachments. It will end rampant polluting activities like washing of empty sacks and gunny bags used for packing chemicals or cement and disposal of waste generated by slaughter of birds.

The steps to be taken for rejuvenation of the river are cleaning/desilting, restoration and ma-



LG Saxena inspected the floodplain on Sunday

intenance of the two main water bodies by DDA on the banks, with the aim of interconnecting all the water bodies at different locations through a channel. This inter-connectivity will ensure uniform water levels in all the water bodies.

Extensive plantation throughout the stretch in a triple grid layered design is another component of the action plan. While the first layer of the grid will have riverine grasses, the second layer will have bamboo plantations, and in the third layer various flowering and fruit-bearing trees will be planted. These sites will be developed by DDA as open public greens with ecologically sustainable conveniences where different species of flora and fauna can flourish, said the LG office.

After taking charge as chairman of the high-level committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to oversee the rejuvenation of Yamuna, Saxena has been chairing meetings with concerned departments and inspecting the river at various locations to ensure cleaning and conducting follow-up visits.