

## Focus Site Location- “Bhalswa”

### 1 Background

For this project, SEWA Delhi made efforts to organize new trade group - **Waste Recyclers**, as they are one of the prominent trade groups residing in Bhalswa.



*Figure SEQ Figure \\* ARABIC 7: View of Bhalswa Landfill*

An online meeting was held with ‘Basti Suraksha Manch’, an organization in Delhi that works for the protection of slum residents from evictions and displacements, to comprehend the existing condition and challenges faced by waste recyclers in Delhi. As per the report by Chintan 2018, 150,000 waste recyclers in Delhi recycle at least 2000 tons of paper, plastic, metals and glass daily. They save the municipality about a crore a day (Chintan, 2018).

Despite their vital contributions, waste recyclers face social stigma and health issues such as bites, allergies, and mistreatment by municipal authorities. While waste recyclers are essential for waste collection, segregation, and recycling, there is a growing trend in India to outsource waste management services to private firms. According to the Chintan report, the waste recyclers save 3.6 more times greenhouse gases in Delhi alone than any other waste projects in India that receives carbon credits.

Delhi's waste recyclers collect about 15-20 percent of Delhi's total waste (in terms of weight) and recycle about 2,000 tons of city's waste every day. There are three landfills in Delhi- Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Okhla. Bhalswa was commissioned in 1994 which are already saturated beyond their capacity. There are over 4,000 to 5,000 waste pickers living around the Bhalswa landfill site engaged in picking and sorting the waste into categories of plastic, different metals such as aluminium soda cans, electronic items, and so on. By doing so, they save a significant amount of waste purely ending up in landfills and instead contribute to upcycling.

Despite making significant contributions to the city economy, waste pickers face fundamental challenges such as a lack of recognition for their work, lack of access to social security schemes, poor living conditions, and so on. As per the report by National Green Tribunal in 2019, Bhalswa Dumpsite is not an Engineered Sanitary Landfill (SLF). It is a dumpsite which is typically used for dumping of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) which is generated from the areas within the jurisdiction of North DMC. The Bhalswa landfill is spread in area of about 78 acres leading to a height of 65 meters having 80 lakhs tons of MSW as per the report in 2019. Delhi generated 8360 tons of Municipal Solid Waste per day which was projected to rise up to 18,000 tons per day by 2021<sup>1</sup>. The waste is deposited in waste sites located in Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Tughlaqabad which are homes to a large number of waste recyclers who rely on the waste for their livelihoods. Bhalswa Landfill is located in North Central Delhi which is over 65 metres high in 2019 as per the report by National Green Tribunal. Bhalswa Landfill, the second biggest dump yard in the national capital after Ghazipur, is an unscientific open dumping ground which was created in 1994 and today it is spread over 78 acres where most of the residents of Bhalswa depend on it for their survival. It serves as a home to many migrant waste recyclers due to its close proximity to Delhi border, the Bhalswa landfill hosts thousands of low-income migrant workers who are originally from the rural belts of West Bengal.

Metropolitan city-capitals like Delhi have a migratory-pull effect on rural populations. People in huge numbers leave behind their agricultural practices, wind up their small businesses and start a daunting journey to the centres of economic progress, hoping to earn enough money to survive. The Bengali community living in the Bhalswa region of North Delhi migrated there from parts of West Bengal due to a similar pull effect. The community flourished with the few residing members bringing their families out of dire conditions back home. Now, most of the waste-picking work-trade in both the Bhalswa and Ghazipur landfills is done by the Bengali community. Most of the women working as waste recyclers have been in the intergenerational occupation where parents pass on the same work to their children. While official policy indicates intent to supply basic infrastructure services however, the services are not fully available and cannot be counted under planned. An unauthorised colony like Bhalswa, are built in contravention of zoning regulations, developed in violation of Delhi's Land use Master plan hence they lack access to basic services like access to water, toilet and sanitation.

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<sup>1</sup> (Sk et al., 2016)



Figure 10: Mapping of problems identified in the Community Meetings in Bhalswa Dairy, Source: Authors using Google Earth

## Collected Information of Area : Bhalswa

Bhalswa is an unauthorized colony in the North district which was found to have existed since 1980 as per the document shared with the Urban Development Department under the GNCTD (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi). (<https://udd.delhi.gov.in/node/58337> )

Here, I am focusing on Swami Shardanand Park as most of our waste recyclers live in this area due to proximity to the landfill. As the CPR document (<https://cprindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Regularising-Delhis-UACs.pdf> ), there are criteria which should be considered for regularisation:

1. It must have been “in existence” as of 31 March 2002
2. At least 50% of the colony should be built up by the date of the formal announcement of the regularisation scheme
3. However, exclusion if the UAC is i) on the land reserved as forest area, ii) poses hindrance to provision of infrastructure, iii) it violates regulation of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or iv) it is inhabited by affluent sections.

The process of applying for regularisation requires:

S.No.	Step	Agency	Status in Bhalswa
1	Establishment and registration of a Residents Welfare Association (RWA)	RWA	Established and Registered in 2007 under the presidency of Anil Kumar Rana
2	Preparation of layout plan of the colony with proper labelling	RWA and architect	Done and submitted
3	Detailed list of residents who are plot or flat owners	RWA and architect	Done and submitted
4	Complete scrutiny of the layout plan	Local Body or DDA  Within two months of receipt of the layout plan submitted by RWA	No info shared on the website



5	Finalize the boundaries of the identified colony.	GNCTD  Within three months from the last date of submission of the layout plan	DDA has shared the delineated boundary in 2019 (attached below)
	After fixing the boundaries on the layout plan, formally forward the layout plan to the local body or DDA for approval.	GNCTD  None	
	Approve the layout plan of the colony.	Local Body  Within one month of receipt of the layout plan after fixing of boundaries by GNCTD	No info is with us on this, need to talk to RWA first to understand
	Refer the case to the GNCTD for regularisation and to the DDA for land use change.	Local Body  None	
	Formal orders of regularisation are to be issued only after completing all formalities: land use change and payment of all requisite charges	GNCTD  None	
	Overall, the entire regularisation process except land use change is completed.	GNCTD  Within six months of the submission of the layout plan by RWA	
	Overall, the entire process of formal regularisation after the change in land use is done.	GNCTD  Within nine months of	Shradhanand Colony Park was not on the list of 895 regularised

		the submission of the layout plan by RWA	colonies in 2012.
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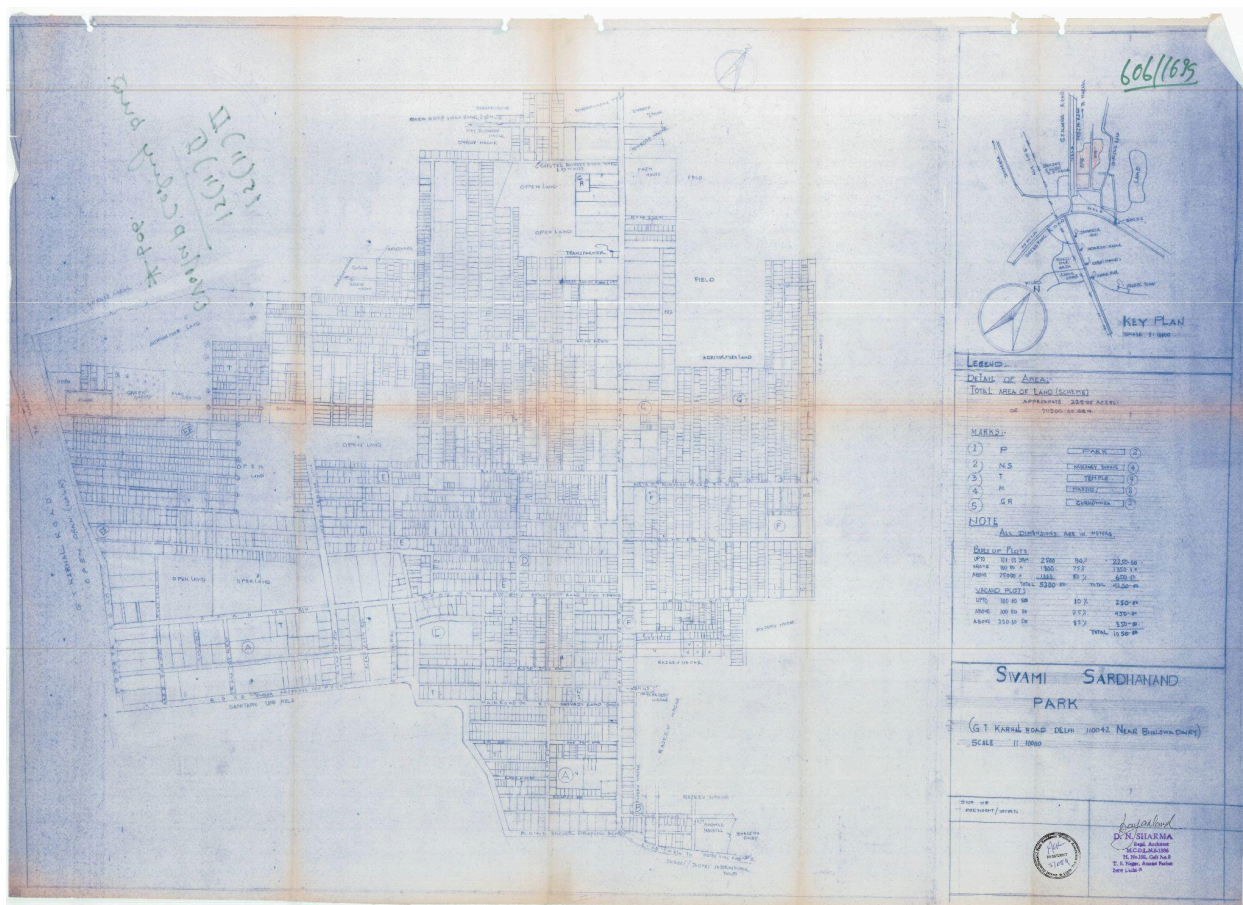


Figure: Mapping submitted by the RWA in 2008

There were 1639 UACs application in 2007 for regularisation where in 2008, 1218 of them received “Provisional Regularisation Certificates (PRCs). Then in September 2012, a GNCTD order found 895 of them to be eligible for regularisation. Out of these 895, 312 UACs- those on private land- stood regularised on the date of the order (that is 2012). The remaining 583 UACs, partly or wholly on public land, would only stand regularised after the cost of the public land on which they were built had been recovered by the GNCTD on behalf of land-owning agency.

In 2004, Swami Shradannad Park Resident Welfare Association with registration no. S/51084/2004 under the presidency of Anil Kumar Rana and the responsibilities were shared for the 2007-2008 term. The document shared the status of basic infrastructure such as:

- Roads- Yes
- Water Supply- Water tanker supply by DJB
- Hand pumps- Yes but not drinkable
- Tube Wells- No
- Underground Water tank- No
- Street Light- Yes
- ESS/Transformers/Generators- Yes
- Drains- No
- Sewarge/Sanitation- No
- Fire Fighting installations- No
- Parks/Transport lots/ Common- Park (2)
- Open Space- Yes
- Schools- Yes
- Community Hall- No
- Common parking areas- No
- Dispensary/Health Centers- No
- Religious Structures- Yes
- Police Post/ Fire post- Yes

No. of built up plots ( as the document submitted in 2007-08)

- i) Upto 100 sq. mt- 2509
- ii) Above 100 sq. mts- 1800
- iii) Above 250 sqm- 1000

No of vacant plots

- i) Upto 100 sq.mts- 250
- ii) Above 100 sq.mt- 450
- iii) Above 250 sqm- 350

For the Swami Shardanand Park Colony, the registered no in the GNCTD list is 606. The revenue village is Samipur & Bhalaswa Village. As per the master Plan of Delhi, it comes under Civil Line zone **or P-Block.**

Total area of the unauthorised colony = 225 acres

### **What is General Power of Attorney which is usually the document used in unauthorised colonies?**

In unauthorised colonies, the property are sold through the General Power of Attorney. However, as per the ruling of Supreme Court only registered sale deeds provide any legal holdings to such transactions. In order to avoid the long procedure in obtaining permissions and to avoid payment to DDA. As per ruling of SC, an unregistered agreement to sell or an unregistered general power of attorney cannot be used to transfer the title of immovable

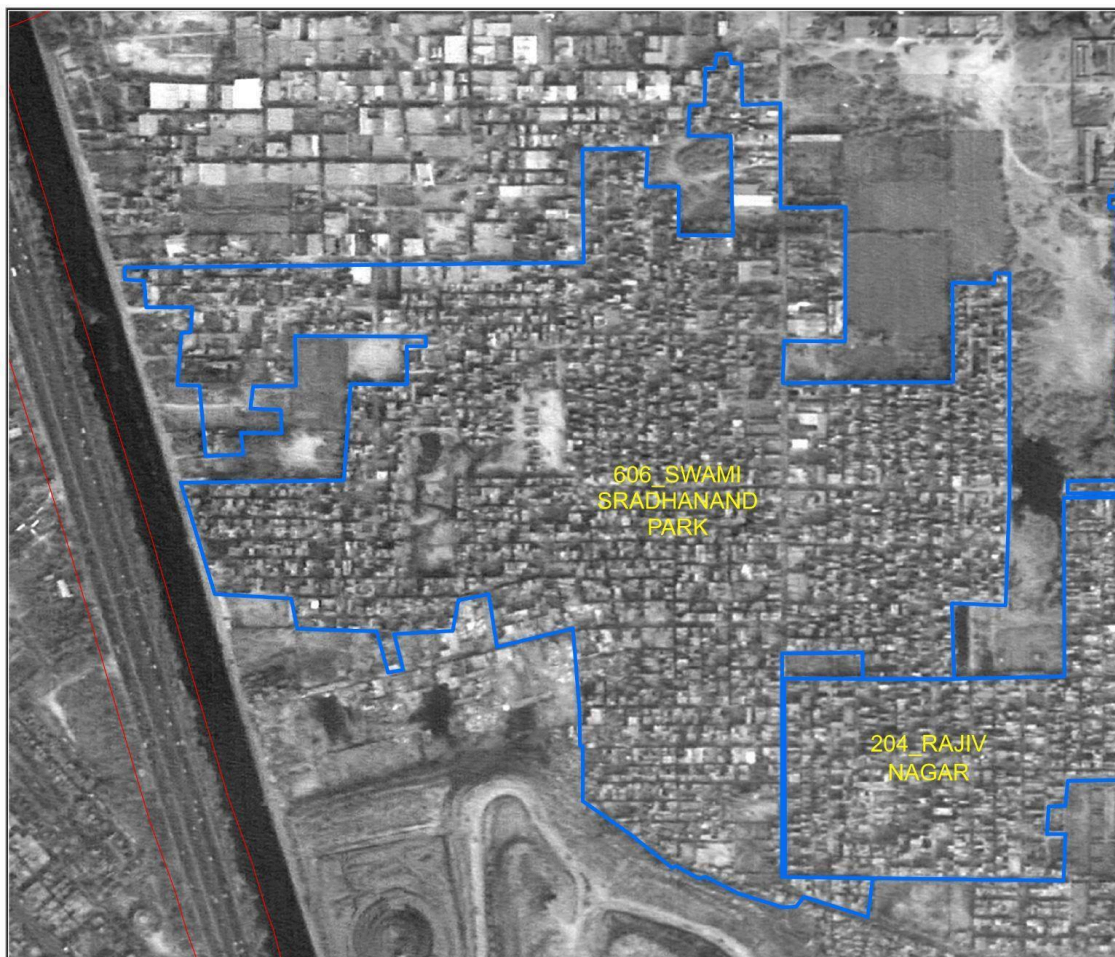
property. Those with GPA, cannot sell it unless there is a specific provision in the document giving them the power to do so.

There are 1731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi excluding the affluent UCs but only 895 are

As per the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in the year 1978-1989- late information

DDA in consultation with the Revenue Department GNCTD delineated boundaries of UACs and uploaded in 2019 on DDA's website. The delineation done by the DDA as per their information on the website is shared as: ([http://119.226.139.196/tendernotices\\_docs/27112019/61\\_606.pdf](http://119.226.139.196/tendernotices_docs/27112019/61_606.pdf) )





The delineation of Boundaries of Unauthorised colonies are carried out by the officers of Revenue Deptt. GNCTD, DDA and Survey of India, as per the Standard Operating procedure during various meetings and thereafter uploaded on DDA web site.

The Satellite image of 2015 are considered for the delineation of boundaries of Unauthorised colony as the cut of date is defined as per the Gazette Notification S.O. 21(E) dated 01/01/2015.

The objection / comments by the presidents / secretaries of RWAs / Federation of RWAs are invited as per the information uploaded on DDA Web site w.r.t concerned Regd. No. as per list enclosed as Annexure II of Gazette Notification G.S.R. 814 (E) dt. 29 October 2019.

RWAs/Federation of RWAs of the concerned colonies/adjacent UC having common boundaries are requested to give their suggestions/ comments etc. on the delineated boundaries and point out any discrepancy which may be rectified, along with reasons and supporting documents.

This has to be given on the DDA portal, which is coming soon. suggestions / comments etc. are to be given within 15 days of uploading of this MAP / delineated boundaries of the particular colony by DDA.

The Decision of the Committee will be final as per Standard Operating Procedure.





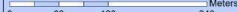
 <b>BOUNDARY OF UNAUTHORISED COLONY</b>  <b>MPD/ZDP ROAD</b>	<b>Map No.</b> <b>61</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">MERGED UNAUTHORISED COLONIES</th> </tr> <tr> <th>REGD. NO.</th> <th>NAME</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6097</td> <td>Sarvop Nagar Extn. (South), Delhi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1404</td> <td>Swaroop Nagar (South Part-II), G.T. Karnal Rd &amp; Burari Rd, N. Delhi</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MERGED UNAUTHORISED COLONIES		REGD. NO.	NAME	6097	Sarvop Nagar Extn. (South), Delhi	1404	Swaroop Nagar (South Part-II), G.T. Karnal Rd & Burari Rd, N. Delhi
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div> <b>SR. NO.618 ( ANNEXURE II : LIST OF UNAUTHORISED COLONIES UNDER 2008 REGULATION OF GAZETTE NOTIFICATION G.S.R 814 (E). DATED 29 OCTOBER 2019).</b>  <b>GNCTD REGD.NO: 606_SWAMI SARDHANAND PARK, BHALSWA DAIRY, DELHI-42.</b> </div> </div>										
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Figure: Outline Delineated by DDA in 2019

The Union Urban Affairs Ministry said on December 27 2023 that it was in the process of conferring ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies of Delhi under the PM-UDAY scheme. (Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/ownership-rights-to-residents-of-1731-unauthorised-colonies-of-delhi-in-process-says-ministry/article67683433.ece> )

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri told Lok Sabha that it was necessary to extend the provision to protect the 40 lakh residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi from “inhumane” orders. Parliament passed a Bill in 2023 giving protection to unauthorised colonies in Delhi from any punitive actions, including sealling and demolition for the next three year, till December 2026. (

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/parliament-passes-bill-giving-relief-to-illegal-colonies-in-delhi/articleshow/106137468.cms> )

### **How much waste collected everyday? The future of the landfill?**

**As per the report submitted to NGT in 2022,**

<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/Bhalswa-Dump-site-report-NGT-Oct10-2022.pdf> ,

**The drone survey of Bhalswa dumpsite:**

**Area: 78.47 acres**

**Waste Volume: 73,00,000 cubic meters**

**Height: 62meters (37 humans stacked on top of each other, ~41.33 cars, ~ 17.71 dump trucks, ~ qutub minar, ~ 2 India Gate)**

In India, an estimated 55 million tonnes of municipal solid waste is generated annually by 377 million citizens residing in urban areas. With an urban population that's expected to grow to 600 million by 2030 and to 814 million by 2050, India is set to generate 165 million tonnes of waste by 2030 and 436 million tonnes by 2050. The waste composition and its characteristics are also subject to change drastically, with a rise in dry waste quantities, a trend observed in major cities. ( <https://idronline.org/article/climate-emergency/waste-to-energy-smokescreen-or-solution/> )

**To be read:**

<https://idronline.org/article/climate-emergency/waste-to-energy-smokescreen-or-solution/>

According to the World Bank, global waste is slated to grow to 3.40 billion tonnes a year, up from the 2.12 billion currently generated. With waste to energy (WtE) plant seeing relative success in the European Union, however the same strategy cannot be incorporated in India which has been covered in the comprehensive report titled ( <https://csestore.cse.org.in/to-burn-or-not-to-burn-feasibility-of-waste-to-energy-plants-in-india.html> ) by CSE in 2018. There are two major issues: 1. The questionable quality of waste due to high moisture content and low calorific value. and 2. Serious health and environmental implications.

In every city, two types of waste collection systems operate simultaneously: formal and informal. In the informal system, waste pickers travel door to door to collect garbage, which they then sort. Recyclable material such as paper, electronics, and plastic are sold to recyclers, while the rest is transported to designated collection points known as dhalaos. According to one report, India had 12 operational and eight non-operational WtE plants in 10 states, as of November 2022, and the country's ambitious Waste to Energy Programme has laid the groundwork for many more. In July last year, the Telangana government announced its plans to set up five additional WtE plants, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has begun working on the fifth plant, in Bawana.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/10/india/india-bhalswa-landfill-pollution-climate-intl-hnk-dst/index.html>

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**Thank you,**

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