



An embassy office in Chanakyapuri. DDA's proposal for another diplomatic enclave in Dwarka has been accepted.

Centre to expand Delhi's diplomatic enclave

By **Rakesh Ranjan**
in New Delhi

DECKS have been cleared for setting up the second diplomatic enclave in the Capital. The monetary issues between the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) pertaining to rate of land allotment have been resolved, paving the way for the construction work.

Senior DDA officials said the plots have been carved out in more than 70 acre of land in Sector 24 Dwarka that has been allotted to the MEA. According to DDA, the development of land, which includes construction of land and laying the sewage system, has been completed.

"The MEA has to finalise the list of countries that will be setting up their

missions in the diplomatic enclave. The ministry is holding talks with foreign missions to determine the size of land to be allotted to each country. On part of the DDA, we have completed the development of land and the plots have been carved out. The enclave is ready for allocation," said DDA vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar.

Plots have been carved out in 70-acre land in Dwarka

He said the MEA has also agreed upon paying the ground rent which was a contentious issue delaying the work. "The MEA will soon communicate to the DDA the required allotment for each application in the new diplomatic area,"

Kumar added.

The proposed diplomatic enclave will house nearly 50 foreign missions apart from state-of-the-art cultural centres, amphitheatres, super-specialty hospitals and shopping centers. Kumar said the requirements will be finalised by the MEA following which the DDA will start preparing the layouts. The second diplomatic enclave in Dwarka was proposed by the DDA in 2007 after requests by several countries for allotment of land for setting up their missions.

Officials said the MEA has received over 50 applications from countries for land allotment. Sources said nearly 39 countries that are currently operating from various residential colonies mainly in South Delhi areas like Vasant Vihar would get top priority in the diplomatic area.