

Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC Unveils Five 80th Independence Day Promises for Meerut

MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj unveils Five Promises — 1857 heritage walks, 10,000 sports-worker camps, scholarship helpdesks, plantation drive, quarterly report cards

MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA, August 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH — Saturday, 15 August 2026 — MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj today unveiled the 80th Independence Day Five Promises, a set of dated commitments announced on the morning India marks 79 years of freedom — 169 years since Meerut's sepoys lit the first spark of 1857.

Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC joined the Tiranga Yatra through Meerut's streets, the bike rally that followed it, and the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign at his residence, alongside fellow public representatives and thousands of citizens who filled the streets of Meerut with the Tricolour in their hands, spreading a message of patriotism, unity and national pride.

Participated in the Tiranga Yatra organized in Meerut today under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, alongside fellow public representatives. Thousands of citizens joined the march, filling the streets across the city with the Tricolour in their hands and spreading a powerful message of patriotism, unity, and national pride.

The enthusiastic participation of people reflected the collective spirit of Meerut and the shared commitment of its citizens to the nation. MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj organised the day's observance around the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan — encouraging citizens to proudly embrace the spirit of patriotism and national unity. On the occasion, the Tricolour was also distributed among people at his residence in Meerut, inspiring citizens to hoist the Tiranga at their homes and become a part of this nationwide celebration. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the deep sense of pride, unity, and love for the nation among the people



Dharmendra Bhardwaj

of Meerut.

Before schoolchildren, sports-goods workers, traders and residents of the old-city wards — organisers estimated over a thousand — the legislator made a deliberately narrow promise: five actions, each within the powers of the seat he holds, each dated, each to be graded in public.

"A legislator's promise sheet should contain only what a legislator can do: raise the issue in the Council, write to the ministry, convene the meeting, organise the camp, spend his own development fund in the open, and publish his scorecard. Nothing on today's list requires a miracle. All of it requires intent — and all of it will be on record," said MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj.

The venue was the message. The Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign carried the day — a procession through Meerut's streets with the Tricolour in hand, the bike rally that followed, and the distribution of flags at the legislator's residence. The 1857 ground stands close by: within walking distance of the Cantonment Cemetery, St. John's Church and the Kutchery complex, the four sites that carry the city's revolt story. Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC

spoke of it in brief: the 85 sepoys who refused the Enfield P-53 cartridge; the court-martial of 9 May and the ten-year sentences; the evening of 10 May 1857, when Colonel John Finnis of the 11th Native Infantry became the first British officer killed in the rebellion; the overnight march of forty miles to Delhi, the flag over the Red Fort's ramparts by the morning of 11 May; and the suppression of the revolt by the summer of 1858.

"Meerut is a 169-year-old argument with the British Empire. The argument was: we will not be



Dharmendra Bhardwaj Tiranga Yatra



Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC Tiranga Yatra

governed by men who think our religion is a joke and our labour is a commodity. That argument was Hindu and Muslim together — the sepoys who refused the cartridge were both; the soldiers who marched on Delhi were both. 1857 does not belong to one community. It belongs to this soil," said MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj.

After the yatra, the gathering stayed on for a voluntary cleanliness sweep of the precinct, before a community kitchen served all comers from a single line — the same discipline of shared ground and shared work that the day's five promises are written to carry forward.

Promise One — Heritage: Walk the City's Own Story. Meerut hosts the birthplace of 1857 and does not show it. The sites are unmarked or under-marked, schoolchildren in the city's own wards grow up a kilometre from history they have never been taken to, and the 170th anniversary of the revolt — 10 May 2027 — is nine months away with no public programme in sight.

MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj pledges: a monthly freedom walk for

schoolchildren of AC-48 through the four 1857 sites — Augharnath, Cantonment Cemetery, St. John's Church, Kutchery — led from September 2026, with permissions, guides and school coordination arranged; no fee, no banners, no politics on the walk itself. Interpretive signage at the four sites — plain, bilingual boards telling the 1857 story — pursued with the district administration and the ASI Meerut circle, and funded where admissible from the legislator's local area development fund, with the sanction letters published. A 170th-anniversary programme on 10 May 2027: a citizens' morning at Augharnath — invocation, reading of the names of the 85 court-martialled sepoys where records permit, and the first all-ward heritage quiz for school teams. And a question in the Vidhan Parishad in the next session asking the government to place the 1857 circuit — signage, lighting, school-visit programming — within the state tourism budget, and to state its plans for the 170th anniversary.



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Promise Two — Sports Workers: Camps, Not Commissions. Meerut's sports-goods cluster — 40 to 45 per cent of India's sports-goods exports, a ₹1,500–1,750 crore annual turnover, some 3.15 lakh workers across 35,200 units — runs on piece-rate and home-based labour whose papers are thin: no [e-Shram](#) card, no Ayushman card, no pension enrolment. The entitlements exist; the last mile does not. The cluster's anchor brands — SG (est. 1931), BDM (1925), Sareen Sports (1969), Bhalla Sports, Premier Legguard Works — built the city's name; the workers who stitch and press in its lanes are owed the formal record that name deserves.

MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj pledges enrolment camps in the workshops' own lanes — Abu Nagar, Sotiganj, Partapur, Delhi Road — run with the district administration and voluntary data operators: e-Shram registration, [Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY](#) cards, and pension-scheme applications for workers and their families. Target: 10,000 workers covered by 15 August 2027; count published monthly by camp. A cluster stakeholders' assembly within 60 days — unit owners, piece-rate workers' representatives, the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council and the exporters' associations at one table with the district industries centre — on credit, raw-material costs and the Partapur sports-goods SEZ demand already in the draft Master Plan 2041. A memorandum to the state government making the case, on the model of Handlooms, Sericulture and MSME, for dedicated institutional attention to the sports-goods industry — framed as the elected voice of the cluster, not as its proprietor. And sports kits to 50 government primary schools of AC-48 — Meerut-made equipment from the city's own units, bought and delivered transparently — so the industry's first customers are its own children.

Promise Three — Education: Helpdesks That File, Not Promise. The schemes exist — scholarships, PMKVY/PMKK skilling, the [Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami](#) Vikas Yojana's interest-free, collateral-free loans up to ₹5 lakh — but forms fail, deadlines pass, and old-city wards file least. Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC pledges a permanent scholarship and schemes helpdesk at the constituency — free, non-partisan, open to every applicant regardless of vote — assisting with state and central scholarship portals, PMKVY/PMKK enrolment, and CM-YUVA applications, with a monthly count of filings and outcomes. Application drives, ward by ward, coordinated with Common Service Centres, prioritising the old-city wards where the digital divide is sharpest. And continued advocacy, by question and letter, for the 100-acre CCS University extension campus already resolved in September 2025 — pressing construction, not announcing campuses.

Promise Four — Water, Air and Trees: The Quiet Work. Meerut's climate-severity score for 2026 on the AQI.in Climate Change Severity Index is 90/100 (Extreme), a 74.9 per cent worsening against the prior sixteen-year average; the city's air at the time of drafting stood at AQI 143 (Poor), PM2.5 ~56 µg/m³ — roughly 11 times the WHO annual guideline; and the city's water future is a race between depletion and recharge.

MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj pledges a monsoon plantation drive with a published survival count — saplings of native species with the Forest Department and the Meerut Nagar Nigam across AC-48's schools, parks and precincts, each plantation geo-tagged, each survival count published

the following monsoon. Trees planted is a press release; trees alive is work. Rainwater-harvesting promotion ward by ward with the Nagar Nigam — compliance information for new buildings above 300 square metres, retrofit guidance for existing ones — through the same 90-ward councillor network that will be briefed. E-auto facilitation drives — information and application support for diesel-auto replacement under the state EV policy and the central EV-incentive scheme that succeeds PM E-DRIVE, plus advocacy for the RRTS Namo Bharat corridor's last-mile feeder network. And continued public tracking of the sanctioned water money — the ₹681.78 crore NMCG sewerage programme and its STP milestones, as committed in the 14 August six-point pledge.

Promise Five — The Report Card. The fifth pledge governs the other four. Beginning November 2026, a quarterly note will be published on each pledge — walks held, enrolments counted, kits delivered, trees surviving, applications filed — and where a pledge has stalled, the note will say so and say why.

"Judge me on the November note, and every note after it. If the number is zero, print the zero. That is the whole contract," said MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj.

The day closed by naming what the city carries. The Nauchandi precinct — where the Chandi Devi temple, the Bale Miyan dargah (1194), the Shahpir dargah (1620) and the Surajkund tank stand in one shared sacred geography, and where the fair draws lakhs of visitors across its month-long run — is Meerut's own proof that coexistence is not an imported idea here; it is the default setting of centuries. The wounds of 1987 — the events at Hashimpura and Maliana now before the courts — were acknowledged with dignity and left to the legal process still running, and the public record contains no statement that prejudices any pending proceeding.

The five promises sit inside a longer public record. Since 12 April 2022, MLC Dharmendra Bhardwaj has kept a running ledger of constituency work — the farmers' grievance intervention of October 2022, the ₹17-crore road-widening announcement of October 2025, the e-rickshaw commute of May 2026, the pilgrim service medical camps along the kanwar yatra route, and the June 2026 door-to-door rounds across Phoolbagh, Nehru Nagar, Brahmpuri and Mangal Pandey Nagar that produced the six-point pledge of 14 August. The 80th Independence Day promises extend that ledger into the coming year, with the same discipline: named agencies, dated commitments, published counts.

The metrics by which the legislator will be measured are written into each promise. Heritage: walks held per month, with a target of ten by June 2027; signage sanctioned and installed; the Council question admitted and answered; the 10 May 2027 programme held. Sports workers: enrolments by camp and cumulative; the stakeholders' assembly held and its minutes circulated; the memorandum submitted and acknowledged; kits delivered school-by-school. Education: applications filed and approvals logged per month; drive coverage across the 342 booths' wards; Council questions on the extension campus asked and answered. Environment: saplings surviving at twelve months; councillor-network briefings held; e-auto applications facilitated;

NMCG milestone notes published quarterly. The report card: every number above, published, dated, and open to inspection.

Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan ☐☐

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About Dharmendra Bhardwaj: Dharmendra Bhardwaj is a sitting Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council from the Meerut-Ghaziabad Local Authorities constituency — elected 12 April 2022, the first-ever BJP victory on that seat, with 3,710 first-preference votes (89.61 per cent). He entered electoral politics from the District Panchayat (Ward-12, Sarurpur, 2010, with 10,451 votes), contested the 2014 Graduate MLC election as an Independent and lost by only about 800 votes, and joined the BJP in 2016 under then state president Keshav Prasad Maurya. His term in the Council runs to 11 April 2028. His record of constituency work includes farmers' grievances resolved at his residence (October 2022), a ₹17-crore road-widening intervention (October 2025), an e-rickshaw commute to Vikas Bhawan after the Prime Minister and Chief Minister's fuel-conservation appeal (May 2026), and medical relief camps along the kanwar yatra route. Dharmendra Bhardwaj MLC's public work spans roads, education, health camps and the sports-goods economy of Meerut, and his constituency record is kept in the public domain — quarterly, dated, and open to inspection.

Dharmendra Bhardwaj

Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative council

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