

## GURGAON FIRST

• OUR CITY • OUR VOICE

Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Guugram

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### MCG Election Special

#### Gurugram Welcomes New Mayor

Gurugram conducted its municipal elections on March 2, 2025, after a seven-year hiatus. Notably, this was the first time mayoral candidates were directly elected by the public. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) ushered in BJP's Raj Rani Malhotra elected as the new mayor defeating Congress's Seema Pahuja. The BJP secured 24 out of 36 wards in the MCG election. The polls were part of a broader electoral exercise across Haryana, where nine out of ten municipal corporations, including Faridabad, Hisar, Rohtak, Karnal, Ambala, Sonapat, Yamunanagar, and Panipat, elected BJP mayors. Manesar was the exception, electing independent candidate Dr. Inderjit Yadav as mayor. In an effort to increase voter participation, 120 out of 817 polling booths were set up in clubs and community centers of residential societies within MCG and Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) areas. However, Guugram District recorded its lowest-ever voter turnout at **41.8%**, a significant drop from the 55.92% turnout in 2017. Out of over **11.7 lakh registered voters** across Gurugram district, approximately **4.9 lakh** cast their ballots.

### Infrastructure

#### Construction of Gurugram Metro Expansion to Begin on May 1

The much-anticipated **Gurugram Metro Expansion Project** is scheduled to commence construction on May 1, 2025. Spanning 28.5 km, the new metro corridor will connect HUDA City Centre to Cyber City, featuring a mix of elevated and underground stations to ensure seamless transit. Upon completion, the metro line is expected to serve over 540,000 daily commuters, significantly easing traffic congestion and enhancing urban connectivity. The system will also integrate with other transit networks, providing a robust solution for Gurugram's growing transportation needs. The Gurugram Metro Rail Limited (GMRL), the special purpose vehicle tasked with implementing mass rapid transport projects in Haryana, has floated tenders for the construction of the first phase of the project — from Millennium City Centre to Sector 9. This phase, with an estimated cost of ₹1,286 crore, includes 15.22 km of viaduct construction, 15 stations, a 1.85 km spur to the Dwarka Expressway, and a ramp leading to the proposed depot in Sector 33. Bids for the contract are set to be opened on April 22, 2025.

#### Major Road Infrastructure Boost Planned for Gurugram

Gurugram is set for a significant infrastructure upgrade with new projects aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity. The Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) will see the construction of an **elevated road and five new flyovers**, aimed at streamlining traffic flow and addressing bottlenecks along this critical corridor. In addition, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has also announced plans to build **underpasses and flyovers at seven key locations**, including major intersections such as **Rajiv Chowk** and **Sohna Road**. These developments are part of a broader vision to modernize the transportation network, making daily commutes smoother and better supporting the city's rapid urbanization.

This initiative aligns with the government's commitment to making Gurugram a model city for infrastructure and urban mobility.

### **Infra projects update Meeting**

Gurugram MP, Rao Inderjit Singh has directed the district administration to find a permanent solution to the waterlogging issue that plagues the city. Singh gave the directions while chairing a meeting of the district development coordination and monitoring committee in March and said that during the coming monsoons, he will personally review the preparations made to prevent waterlogging in the city. He also took an update of other key infrastructure projects including Gurugram metro rail expansion, multi-level parking and cleaning of the Bandhwari landfill site.

### **New Agency for door-to door waste collection and new C&D processing sites**

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will soon appoint a new agency to collect door-to-door garbage. The corporation had already cancelled the contract of the garbage collection agency, Ecogreen and **Vimalraj Agency** was appointed to collect door-to-door garbage here in the city last year. The latter's contract will end in June 2025. To address the growing issue of construction and demolition waste, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has proposed setting up three new processing units. These facilities will focus on recycling and repurposing waste material, reducing landfill dependency and minimizing environmental impact.

### **Haryana CM Approves ₹3,000 Crore Pipeline Project for Gurugram Water Supply**

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday directed the state irrigation department to remodel the Gurugram Water Supply (GWS) Project by replacing the proposed open channel with a fully covered 70-kilometre pipeline. Currently, the irrigation department supplies 570 million litres per day (MLD) of water to the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) through the NCR water channel and the existing GWS channel. The new pipeline, estimated to cost ₹3,000 crore, will have the capacity to supply 686 cusecs of water to Gurugram. Directions have been issued to ensure that financial provisions for the project are included in the upcoming state budget.

### **Gurugram Traffic Police Crackdown in March**

In a significant enforcement drive, the Gurugram Traffic Police issued a total of **61,602 challans** amounting to ₹5.19 crore during March 2025. This crackdown targeted violations such as wrong-side driving and other traffic offenses, aiming to improve road safety and discipline in the city.

## **Environment and Sustainability**

### **Gurugram seventh the list of top 10 polluted Indian cities**

Pollution data analysed by the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)** this March ranked Gurugram on the 7th spot, with average particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) calculated at 81µg/m³. In the previous year, Gurugram's ranking was fifth. CREA noted that stricter enforcement of emission standards, promotion of clean technologies and public awareness were crucial to fight the pollution menace. Gurugram experienced its **cleanest January** in a decade, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 204. Favourable meteorological conditions contributed to the dispersion of pollutants, marking a significant improvement compared to previous years. The city recorded **better air quality** this March compared to the same period last year. The average air quality index (AQI) stood at 183, down from 189 in March 2024. This makes it the third cleanest March since air quality monitoring began in the city in 2016.

### **GRAP restrictions re-imposed in January 2025**

The GRAP-IV restrictions, which include halting construction and industrial activities to reduce pollution, were **re-imposed in January 2025**. However, by **February-March 2025**, the situation improved. With the

improvement in air quality, the GRAP-IV restrictions were **revoked**, allowing construction and industrial activities to resume.

### NGT's Suo Motu Action on Illegal Mining

In January 2025, the NGT initiated suo motu proceedings based on a news report highlighting the destruction of a hillock in the **protected Aravalli region** by mining mafia along the Haryana-Rajasthan border. In response, the NGT directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards of Haryana and Rajasthan to submit detailed reports on the incident. Other respondents included the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) offices in Jaipur and Chandigarh, as well as the district magistrates of Bharatpur and Nuh. The next hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2025.

### Ban on Diesel Auto rickshaws

Starting January 2025, Gurugram enforced a ban on **diesel-powered auto rickshaws** to combat air pollution. The district administration directed the removal of all diesel autos from roads by December 31, 2024, in compliance with the Commission for Air Quality Management's directives

### Haryana Clears ₹36 Crore Rooftop Solar Project for Government Buildings

In a bid to promote renewable energy, the Haryana government has sanctioned a ₹36 crore initiative to install rooftop solar power plants on over **290 government buildings**. This move is expected to significantly reduce electricity costs and contribute to the state's goal of transitioning to 50% renewable energy by 2030. The solar project also aligns with India's commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions.

### Gurugram to Get Its Second Biodiversity Park in Manesar

Gurugram is set to develop its **second biodiversity park** in the Kasan area of Manesar, covering approximately 130 hectares. This project, spearheaded by the Haryana Forest Department, aims to restore and preserve the region's native ecosystem. Modelled after the Aravali Biodiversity Park, the new park will include non-cemented walking trails, water bodies for groundwater recharge, and large-scale afforestation efforts. The ₹25 crore project is currently awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) and is expected to significantly improve the city's green cover.

### Haryana Approves ₹21 Crore Plan to Protect Aravalli Hills

The Haryana government has rolled out a ₹21.3 crore plan to restore and protect the Aravalli hills, focusing on **conservation and anti-encroachment measures**. The initiative includes setting up check posts, deploying security personnel, hiring patrolling vehicles, and restoring degraded forest areas. Illegal mining and unauthorized activities have posed a persistent threat to the Aravallis, making this conservation effort crucial for maintaining the region's ecological balance.

## Disaster Management and Preparedness

### Earthquake Tremors Felt in Delhi-NCR, Including Gurugram

On February 17, 2025, an earthquake of magnitude 4.0 struck Delhi-NCR, with tremors felt across Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad. The quake, which originated at a depth of 5 km, caused temporary panic, with residents evacuating buildings as a precaution. No casualties or structural damage were reported. Experts have reiterated the importance of earthquake preparedness, given that Delhi-NCR falls under seismic zone IV.

### Launch of 10-Minute Ambulance Service

**Blinkit** introduced an instant ambulance service in Gurugram, allowing residents to book ambulances through its app with an expected arrival time of 10 minutes, aiming to improve emergency medical response times.