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RECHARGE REFLECT RESOLVE

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

# Sanitation to take center stage will check why Bandhwari waste removal is held up (January 4)

Narhari Singh Banger has taken the initiative of sorting out the city's civic mess and negotiating with the municipal corporation through choppy waters of revenue generation. He held a meeting with government officials and stated that among all issues, sanitation takes center stage and his primary focus will be improving sanitation and will need the cooperation of the residents to resolve the issue. To overcome the problem of waterlogging, MCG will work on desilting and keeping the drains clean. They will make sure that the desilting work is done on time.

### Air Quality Watch: CAQM Takes Aim at Polluting Sectors in NCR (January 4)

In a bid to tackle Delhi's air pollution crisis, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has submitted a new report to the National Green Tribunal outlining corrective measures. The plan identifies key polluting sectors – from vehicles to dust from construction sites – and proposes concrete steps to address them. Key initiatives include updating emission data, phasing out diesel auto-rickshaws by year-end in major NCR cities, and promoting cleaner public transport with 50% of new buses being CNG or electric by December. To curb dust, low-cost sensors will be installed on large construction sites, and dust suppressant use on roads will be studied. This renewed focus on targeted action aims to breathe cleaner air into the National Capital Region.

### HSPCB Cracks Down on Illegal Aravalli Mining (January 4)

Following court orders, a Haryana pollution control board team, led by Chairman Rao, inspected vulnerable Aravalli sites in Gurugram. Their mission: Stop illegal mining and revive the ecology. They assessed encroachments and mining activities in Tauru and Sohna, aiming for a comprehensive plan with government approval. This plan will incorporate suggestions from Aravalli conservation groups. The next NGT hearing is set for January 9th, where the board will present its findings and proposed actions. This marks a crucial step

towards protecting the fragile Aravalli range from environmental damage.

#### Haryana to Tackle Waste Management in Gurugram and Faridabad (January 6)

Haryana's chief secretary announces state government contracts totaling ₹126 crore for processing 15 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste at Bandhwari, Gurugram. A targeted action plan aims to achieve this milestone by June 2024. Pollution control board officials are instructed to rigorously address waste management issues, with penalties for delays in Gurugram and Faridabad landfills. Faridabad MC commissioner receives directives to complete development at Mujheri and initiate operations at Pratapgarh by mid-February 2024. Gurugram MCG and Faridabad MCG commit to regular awareness programs and daily compliance monitoring for waste segregation

#### Haryana Factories Near Yamuna Under Scrutiny for Polluting River (January 6)

The National Green Tribunal has directed pollution board officials to investigate if any illegal factories operating in residential areas of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat, and Jhajjar were polluting Yamuna. The tribunal was hearing a plea that alleged highly polluting 'red category' industrial units were operating in residential areas of the four Haryana districts without installing any effluent treatment plants (ETPs). The NGT bench said a joint committee of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), and district magistrates of Gurgaon, Sonipat, Faridabad and Jhajjar will carry out an inspection and take samples from industries.

# Gurgaon cracks down on waste giants: 10 bulk generators fined for recycling and composting failures (January 7)

The Gurgaon municipality fined 10 bulk waste generators (BWGs) Rs 25,000 each for violating waste management rules. These rules require BWGs to compost wet waste and recycle dry waste. The city, with over 1,200 residential societies and other BWGs, aims to enforce these rules actively. Officials urge BWGs to comply with sustainable waste management.

# About 12,000 migratory birds were sighted at Sultanpur National Park this winter season (January 8)

This winter, approximately 12,000 migratory birds have reached Sultanpur National Park, Gurugram, though their arrival was delayed due to warmer temperatures. The bird count is down by 20-30%, possibly linked to changing temperatures affecting migration patterns observed in other regions like Bharatpur and Okhla. The park, designated a Ramsar site in 2021, hosts around 250 bird species from various countries, offering protected habitat. While conservation efforts, such as habitat management and patrols against poaching, are in place, smaller wetlands like Basai, Chandu, and Najafgarh face disturbances from increased human activities, leading to a significant decline in migratory bird populations

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Revamp of 2 key roads to start in February, will have 6 lanes (January 3)

Two arterial roads – Galleria Market and Vyapar Kendra were revamped in February this year after getting approval from the government. The Metropolitan Authority has given a timeline of 12 months to complete the redevelopment work, specifically by the end of this year. Revamping the Galleria market would cost GMDA around 21.7 crore and 22.4 crore for Vyapar Kendra Road. The proposal to redevelop these two stretches was approved in March previous year. Further, there will be the development of 2.5m-wide cycle tracks, and 1.8m-wide uninterrupted footpaths and provisions will also be made for parking facilities for both residents and visitors.

# Gurgaon's Dwarka Expressway to Open in February, Marking Major Transportation Milestone (January 4)

Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav has announced that the Gurgaon segment of the long-awaited Dwarka Expressway is set to be operational in February. Despite awaiting final approval from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Haryana government is eager to open the segment, as 99% of the work is complete. The expressway's Gurgaon section includes a crucial cloverleaf interchange. Deputy Commissioner Yadav also outlined key infrastructure projects for 2024, signaling significant advancements in transportation and connectivity for Gurugram in the National Capital Region (NCR).

# New GMDA Chief Prioritizes Infrastructure Upgrade for Gurgaon's Rapid Development (January 4)

The newly appointed GMDA CEO, A Sreenivas, has outlined a comprehensive plan for infrastructure development in Gurgaon. Emphasizing the need to align with the city's growing population and civic demands, Sreenivas, with prior experience as the chief of Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority, aims to implement major development plans. The CEO chaired a meeting with GMDA officials, reviewing projects related to water supply, drainage, sewerage, and road infrastructure. Stressing time-bound execution, he directed officials to ensure high-quality standards for ongoing projects, strategically phased to meet the anticipated demands up to 2031.

# GMDA Initiates Safety Measures with New Foot Overbridge on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (January 5 )

The Gurgaon Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) is set to enhance pedestrian safety by constructing an additional 110-foot-long foot overbridge (FOB) at Narsinghpur on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. With a focus on preventing jaywalking and ensuring secure pedestrian movement, the stainless steel FOB, costing Rs 1.6 crore, will be situated 300m away from the existing footbridge. This initiative is part of GMDA's broader plan, as they aim to build four more strategic footbridges across Gurgaon to further improve pedestrian infrastructure.

#### Infra upgrade tops new GMDA chief's priority list for Gurgaon (January 6)

The newly appointed CEO of GMDA Mr. Sreenivas (2004 batch IAS) who took charge on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024, chaired the meeting with senior officials of GMDA & took stock of the ongoing projects being undertaken by the authority. He committed to prioritizing critical projects to provide the benefits of all necessary civic amenities to the public at large. He emphasized the time-bound execution of projects by removing bottleneck operations with strong adherence to quality standards.

### MCG to conduct the physical survey at 294 illegal colonies in Gurugram (January 6)

Haryana's Urban Local Bodies Department directs Gurugram Municipal Corporation (MCG) to conduct a physical survey of 294 illegal colonies for potential regularization, considering revenue benefits. Most fall under MCG's jurisdiction, with some developed on land sold by Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran. After regularizing 13 colonies, 25 more are under consideration. The MCG lists 103 for regularization, but only 38 meet the criteria. This move facilitates development works like electricity and sewerage, with a survey using drone technology being considered for efficiency.

#### New circle rates are likely from next month (January 6)

Circle rates in the city are expected to be revised by the end of this month and come into effect from February 1. The new rates were supposed to have been implemented on January 1, but there has been no announcement so far. For now, properties will be registered according to the existing rate. Haryana government had proposed a 30-80% hike in the rates of the property.

### Gurgaon-Faridabad Metro System: Fostering Connectivity, Economic Development and Seamless Travel (January 6)

Haryana's Gurgaon-Faridabad Metro, managed by HMRTC, aims for a 34.12-kilometer light rail system connecting Gurgaon and Faridabad. Starting at Sector 56 station in Gurgaon and concluding at Old Faridabad station, the project encompasses twelve strategically placed stations. Crossing populous areas and commercial hubs, this initiative underscores the government's dedication to urban mobility and sustainable development in the NCR. With seamless connectivity, it promises to revolutionize travel for residents, commuters, and tourists alike.

# NCR Gears Up for Transformation: Gurgaon-Faridabad Metro Unveils its Vision for a Connected, Sustainable Future (January 7)

The Gurgaon-Faridabad Metro promises a revolutionary transformation of India's National Capital Region. This 34-km light rail system, connecting 12 key stations across two bustling cities, aims to slash travel times, ease traffic woes, and spark economic growth. By promoting transit-oriented development, fostering clean air, and leveraging cutting-edge tech like driverless trains, the project sets a sustainable blueprint for future urban mobility. Expect shorter commutes, enhanced accessibility, thriving local economies, and a vibrant, interconnected NCR – all propelled by this beacon of progress. The Gurgaon-Faridabad Metro isn't just connecting cities; it's connecting people to a brighter future.