

Environment and Air Quality

Haryana Unveils Plan to Curb Vehicular Pollution and Improve Air Quality

The Government of Haryana has announced a plan to improve air quality in the NCR by targeting vehicular pollution and construction dust. From November 1, 2025, end-of-life (ELV) vehicles will be denied fuel in Gurugram, Faridabad, and Sonapat, with the restriction extending to other NCR districts from April 1, 2026. ANPR cameras will be installed at all fuel stations—by October 31, 2025, in phase one, and by March 31, 2026, elsewhere. ELVs—unregistered, unfit, or deregistered vehicles—will be tracked for challenging, impounding, and scrapping. From November 1, 2025, only BS-VI compliant goods vehicles (excluding essential and Delhi-registered vehicles) can enter Delhi. After October 31, 2026, all non-compliant goods vehicles, including those carrying essentials, will be banned. All new auto rickshaws must run on CNG or electricity, and from January 1, 2026, no new petrol or diesel-powered two-wheelers, four-wheeler light commercial vehicles, or N1-category goods vehicles can be added. From November 1, 2026, all buses entering Delhi must be electric, CNG, or BS-VI compliant. Additionally, 382 BS-VI buses will be added by October 2025 to improve connectivity with Delhi.

Haryana Steps Up Efforts to Tackle Construction Dust

To curb dust and construction-related emissions, Gurugram and Faridabad now have facilities processing 300 metric tons of construction waste daily, with another plant planned in Gurugram. A draft road dust mitigation plan has been submitted to CAQM, and all road-owning agencies will develop model stretches in Gurugram and Faridabad for 2025–26. This model will be replicated across other districts. Additionally, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board will install 10 continuous air quality monitoring stations in Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, and Jhajjar, with the tender process already underway.

Gurgaon Air Quality Plummets as CO Levels Surge 60× Above Safe Limit

Two of five key real-time air monitoring stations—Vikas Sadan and Manesar—remained defunct for last two months, hampering accurate AQI assessment. Gurgaon's lone functioning monitoring station in Gwal Pahari recorded a drastic decline in air quality in June. Among multiple pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO) stood out, with concentrations averaging $101 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ —over 60 times the safe $1.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ limit. The spike is attributed to diesel vehicles and open waste burning; CO, though colorless and odorless, can impair oxygen delivery in the body, leading to breathlessness, memory issues, and fatigue. Experts warn calm conditions like low wind and temperature inversions worsen accumulation. According to data from the Gwal Pahari air-monitoring station, nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) levels spiked to $133 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on June 5, and stayed high at $123 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on Friday, June 6—more than three times India's safe threshold of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. These elevated levels prompted concerns over air quality degradation and potential respiratory issues among residents.

GMDA Approved to Fell 1,300 Trees for Metro Construction

The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has received clearance from the Haryana Forest Department to fell 1,300 trees between Millennium City Centre and Hero Honda Chowk to facilitate metro expansion. Permission for an additional 500 trees between Hero Honda Chowk and Sector 9 is pending. The move supports pre-construction activities for the ₹5,452 crore, 28.5 km metro corridor, featuring 27 stations from HUDA City Centre to Cyber Hub. To offset the loss, Gurugram Metro Rail Limited (GMRL) plans a compensatory afforestation drive, planting 18,000 trees across 17 hectares in developing I response times.

Haryana commences extensive forest landscape restoration

Haryana unveiled a comprehensive forest landscape restoration (FLR) initiative in June 2025 to mark World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The four Aravali states participated in a Jodhpur workshop to unveil this plan aimed at restoring the degraded Aravalli's. Haryana's multi-faceted plan targets rejuvenation of 37,017 hectares in its Aravali region, where 69.5% of the degraded area is classified as forest land, followed by 13.2% scrubland and 17.3% degraded agriculture land, according to the environment ministry. The core strategy involves uprooting invasive species such as Velayati Kesar (*Prosopis juliflora*), which has choked native flora and dried groundwater. The plan also includes planting native species, soil moisture conservation, and community participation. In the first phase, 33 priority sites have been identified across Gurugram, Faridabad, Nuh, and Mahendragarh. The plan comes amid growing concerns over the degradation of the Aravalli's, which play a critical role in regulating groundwater, protecting against desertification, and supporting diverse ecosystems in northern India.

Infrastructure

Gurgaon Clears ₹141 Crore Urban Infra Boost with Focus on Safety and Sustainability

The Haryana government has approved ₹141 crore for Gurgaon's urban infrastructure upgrades. Key among them is Phase 2 of the CCTV and adaptive traffic management system, with 2,722 new cameras across 258 sites, enhancing safety and traffic flow. Also cleared are a ₹17.3 crore power substation at Chandu Budhera WTP and a ₹14.7 crore project to build cycle tracks and pedestrian walkways in southern sectors. These projects aim to promote sustainability and reduce vehicle dependence. However, two major sewerage proposals were deferred due to high bids, highlighting ongoing challenges in addressing drainage infrastructure gaps.

Waste Management

MCG to appoint sanitary inspectors for vigilance

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) plans to recruit 144 assistant sanitary inspectors—around four per ward across 36 wards—to improve supervision of sanitation and sewerage operations. The proposal, awaiting final approval from the Haryana government, aims to decentralise operations and bridge communication between residents and senior civic officials. Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya prefers contractual hiring through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited over outsourcing to ensure greater accountability. Recruitment, with an annual budget of ₹4.04 crore, is expected to begin soon. Currently, five supervisors manage nearly 6,000 sanitation workers. The move follows rising complaints from Resident Welfare Associations about poor cleaning services. Meanwhile, the Bandhwari site continues to experience frequent fires, groundwater pollution, and toxic leachate problems, with the NGT and Supreme Court demanding stricter monitoring and cleanup.

Road Infrastructure

MCG Engineers to Review Roads & Sewers in Comprehensive Audit

The Urban Local Bodies (ULB) department has instructed Gurugram's Municipal Corporation (MCG) to conduct detailed inspections of all sewer lines, roads, and streets. Executive and junior engineers will complete five-year performance and fault-analysis reports on sewer infrastructure, reviewed by assistant and executive engineers, then the MCG's additional commissioner, and finally ULB secretary Vikas Gupta. MCG Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya plans to use ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and systematic maintenance documentation to upgrade the city's 4,596 km of roads and 3,540 km of sewer networks. The sewer maintenance budget has been raised from ₹7 crore to ₹28 crore, although residents caution that implementation remains pending. Meanwhile, a 750 m temporary drain is being constructed to prevent monsoon flooding along the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway at Narsingpur, with blocked culverts currently being cleared.

Water and Water Bodies

Proposal for increase in water tariffs

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has sought approval from the urban local bodies department for a proposal to increase water tariffs by up to 20% for metered connections and 50% for unmetered ones.

The revised rates aim to cover a growing budget shortfall: MCG currently pays roughly ₹10 crore monthly to GMDA for water and sewer services but collects only about ₹5 crore in revenue. The plan also advocates adopting a unified citywide billing structure based on the 2018 HUDA notification, standardizing charges across old Gurgaon, villages, and newly integrated HSVP sectors. Institutional and industrial customers would also face higher fees. Residents have expressed frustration with billing inconsistencies affecting villages, plotted and township areas.

Wazirabad Lake revived and restored

Wazirabad Lake, once drying due to urbanisation and debris dumping, has been revived and is now thriving with aquatic life and migratory birds. The transformation, driven by the National Green Tribunal and executed by GMDA and SEEDS, began in 2022. The lake now features jogging tracks, benches, a two-acre park with native trees, a gym, and play areas. Untreated sewage no longer flows in, and the water is clean. The area has become a desirable, green haven named Saraswati Kunj.

Electricity

Electricity Outages due to storms

A powerful storm hit Gurgaon in May, causing widespread power outages that continue to trouble residents, especially those living in high-rise condominiums. Many societies experienced outages lasting over 12 hours, with some facing repeated disruptions even after supply was restored. The Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitrain Nigam (DHBVN) cited fallen trees and damaged infrastructure as key reasons. While repair teams were deployed, residents complained about poor response time and lack of communication. The power cuts also impacted water supply and daily routines. Societies dependent on diesel gensets faced rising costs due to extended use, highlighting the city's fragile electricity infrastructure during extreme weather. Meanwhile, in response to a Haryana Human Rights Commission directive, high-tension lines near schools and residential zones will be relocated to enhance safety, with reports expected shortly.

Traffic

NHAI Plans Traffic Decongestion at Key Gurgaon Junctions

To tackle worsening traffic congestion, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has begun feasibility studies and proposed design overhauls at major Gurgaon junctions, including Rajiv Chowk, Shankar Chowk, and the stretch near Ambience Mall. These areas have seen increased pressure due to the opening of the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway. The initiative aims to streamline traffic flow and reduce bottlenecks. Additionally, the plan includes drainage improvements to prepare for the monsoon season, ensuring smoother vehicular movement and mitigating waterlogging issues that typically disrupt traffic during heavy rains.

Infrastructure

Manesar Plans Civic Upgrade

The Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) approved ₹29 crore across 11 key initiatives, including infrastructure upgrades, colony regularisation, and sanitation reforms. Plans include establishment of Citizen Facilitation Centers in all villages, sub-health centers, enhanced water and sewerage networks and sanitation measures include door-to-door waste collection. Manesar civic authorities are also scouting new landfill sites.

Forest Restoration

Gurgaon Launches 24/7 Forest Fire Patrols in Aravallis

Gurgaon's Forest Department has deployed dedicated patrol teams and special duty officials across the Aravalli's and adjoining districts including Faridabad, Nuh, Rewari, Palwal, and Mahendragarh to monitor and control forest fires during the dry season. Each team—consisting of 11 personnel in Gurgaon and Faridabad, and four in other districts—surveys 80–100 acres daily. This follows April's Forest fires that burned over 100 acres in Bandhwari, Mangar Bani, and Jaitapur Bas. The teams operate around the clock on a rotational roster under divisional and range officers, responding swiftly to fire outbreaks. Environmentalists hail the move as essential for preserving biodiversity and preventing future fire hazards.