

## **GURGAON FIRST** • OUR CITY • OUR VOICE

**Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Gurgaon**

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### **General Elections 2024**

#### **Rao Inderjit Singh Secures Victory in Gurgaon Constituency in 2024 Lok Sabha Election**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Rao Inderjit Singh has won the 2024 Lok Sabha election for the Gurgaon constituency, securing 8,08,336 votes. He defeated Indian National Congress (INC) candidate Raj Babbar by a margin of 75,079 votes. The election, held on May 25 during the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, saw a voter turnout of 62.03 per cent. Gurgaon, one of the 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Haryana, covers the entire Gurgaon and Mewat districts and parts of Rewari district. Rao Inderjit Singh's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha election for the Gurgaon constituency marks his fifth consecutive win. He has consistently represented Gurgaon in the Lok Sabha since 2009, winning elections in 2009, 2014, 2019, and now in 2024.

### **Waste Management**

#### **Gurugram Launches Overhaul to Tackle Sanitation Crisis**

Gurugram has initiated a major effort to improve waste management due to mounting concerns over deteriorating sanitary conditions. In response to overflowing garbage bins and littered streets, Haryana's chief secretary, TVSN Prasad, has appointed new officers under the Solid Waste Environment Exigency Program (SWEEP) to expedite cleaning operations, with a target of significant improvement by July 30. This deadline is set for assessing the initial effectiveness of the intensified sanitation efforts. Key officers, including disaster management expert S. Narayanan and additional commissioners Vatsal Vashist and Samwartak Singh Khangwal, have been tasked with overseeing the intensified sanitation efforts. YS Gupta will manage the SWEEP initiative while continuing his duties at Urban Local Bodies (HQ). The initiative involves increased street cleaning, regular garbage collection, and additional resources like garbage trucks and cleaning equipment. Prasad highlighted that the success of SWEEP could serve as a model for other cities facing similar challenges. While residents appreciate the renewed focus on cleanliness, they call for more transparency and accountability. Experts argue that addressing systemic issues in waste management is essential for long-term success. The effectiveness of this initiative will be closely monitored as the July 30 deadline approaches. Adding to the complexity, the contract with Ecogreen, the previous waste management service provider, was terminated earlier this year due to its failure to meet the city's sanitation standards. Community leaders highlighted issues like ineffective contractors and questioned the MCG's handling of the situation.

#### **MCG Orders Biometric Attendance at Bandhwari Landfill for Better Fire Prevention**

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has mandated the installation of a biometric attendance system at the Bandhwari landfill site to ensure the consistent presence of officers and staff for effective monitoring, particularly to prevent fires. This decision follows a major fire at the landfill on June 1, which highlighted the failure of MCG's previous plan to deploy assistant engineers for round-the-clock surveillance. Additionally, MCG had considered installing methane gas detectors and thermal cameras to detect and prevent fires, but these have yet to be implemented. Despite efforts, such as forming surveillance teams, the landfill continues to pose significant fire risks, with 12.88 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste still present and more expected until December 2024. The corporation remains committed to making Bandhwari waste-free by the end of 2024.

## **Deadline Set for Clearing Legacy Waste at Bandhwari Landfill**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set a strict six-month deadline for the clearing of approximately 25 lakh tonnes of legacy waste at the Bandhwari landfill in Gurgaon. This deadline aims to address the severe environmental and health hazards posed by the landfill, which has been operational since 1996. The NGT has also mandated the Haryana government to deposit ₹20 crore in an escrow account to ensure the timely clearance of the waste. The waste management process at the Bandhwari landfill has already picked up pace, with the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) aiming to clear the site by December 2024. The NGT's directive also includes the requirement for the authorities to submit a detailed action plan and regular progress reports to ensure transparency and accountability in the cleanup process. The efforts to clear the landfill are being closely monitored, with the NGT emphasizing the importance of scientific processing and disposal methods to prevent further environmental degradation.

## **Infrastructure Development**

### **Gurgaon's 3.4 km Master Road Nears Completion After 8 Years**

Gurgaon's urban landscape is set to witness a major upgrade with the near completion of the 3.4-kilometer master road that connects Naurangpur Road to the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). This project, which began eight years ago, faced numerous delays, causing significant challenges for commuters and local businesses. However, with the construction now in its final stages, residents can look forward to improved traffic flow and reduced congestion. The new road is expected to play a vital role in easing the burden on existing routes, providing a more direct and efficient path for daily commuters.

### **Gurgaon Faces Environmental Backlash Over Tree Felling**

Gurgaon's rapid urbanisation has led to the felling of nearly 4,500 trees for the construction of the Dwarka Expressway, sparking a significant environmental controversy. Residents and activists are raising alarms about the loss of green cover, which is crucial for maintaining the city's ecological balance. The large-scale deforestation threatens to exacerbate the urban heat island effect, reduce air quality, and disrupt local wildlife habitats. The incident underscores the ongoing tension between urban development and environmental sustainability, highlighting the need for stricter regulations and compensatory measures to protect the city's remaining green spaces. This controversy reflects broader concerns about balancing growth with environmental conservation in rapidly developing urban areas.

### **Upcoming Foot Overbridge on Golf Course Road to Enhance Safety and Accessibility**

Gurgaon is set to see a major infrastructure improvement with the anticipated opening of the city's first foot overbridge on Golf Course Road. Scheduled to open in June, this new overbridge aims to significantly enhance pedestrian safety and ease congestion in one of the city's busiest areas. The foot overbridge, designed to facilitate safer crossings for pedestrians, comes as a response to growing traffic and safety concerns on Golf Course Road. With its construction nearly complete, the overbridge will offer a dedicated pathway above the road, reducing the risk of accidents and providing a more secure way for pedestrians to navigate the area. This development is expected to alleviate some of the traffic congestion by streamlining the flow of both vehicles and foot traffic. The project also reflects Gurgaon's commitment to improving urban infrastructure and making the city more pedestrian-friendly.

## **Air Quality**

### **Gurgaon's April Air Quality Hits Worst Level in Four Years**

Gurgaon's air quality in April has deteriorated to its worst level in four years, raising serious concerns about the city's environmental health. The month recorded alarmingly high levels of pollutants, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) consistently in the "poor" to "very poor" categories. Factors contributing to this decline include increased construction activities, vehicular emissions, and dust storms, all exacerbated by the onset of summer. The deteriorating air quality poses significant health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions. Environmental experts are urging immediate action to curb

pollution, including stricter enforcement of construction dust control measures, promotion of public transportation to reduce vehicular emissions, and increased green cover to act as natural air purifiers.

## **Surge in Summer Farm Fires in Haryana Raises Air Quality Concerns**

Haryana recorded a significant rise in farm fires this April and May, with 3,134 incidents reported, the highest in three years, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). This marks a 42% increase from last year's 1,900 fires, which were unusually low due to pre-monsoon showers. In contrast, 2022 saw 2,879 farm fires, still lower than this year's count. While crop residue burning is typically associated with winter, the rising summer cases are alarming. Karnal reported the highest number of fires among Haryana districts, followed by Rohtak and Jind. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) highlighted the impact of these fires on Delhi-NCR's air quality, worsened by dry weather. Efforts to curb this practice include government subsidies for residue-clearing machinery and public awareness campaigns. Experts emphasize that poor air quality due to farm fires isn't just a winter issue. They also suggest monetising wheat residue, which holds value for biofuel producers and pastoral communities, as an eco-friendly alternative to burning.

## **Power Supply**

### **New Cooling Systems for Transformers to Prevent Overheating at Substations**

To enhance the reliability and stability of the power supply, the local authorities have introduced cooling systems for transformers at various substations across Gurgaon. Transformers, which play a critical role in voltage regulation and power distribution, are prone to overheating, especially during peak usage periods or extreme weather conditions. Overheating can lead to power outages, equipment damage, and increased maintenance costs. The new cooling systems are designed to maintain optimal operating temperatures, thereby enhancing the efficiency and longevity of the transformers. The installation of these cooling systems is part of a broader effort to improve infrastructure resilience and address the growing demand for electricity in Gurgaon. This development represents a significant step towards modernizing the city's power infrastructure.

## **General**

### **Concerns Raised as 19 Government Schools in Haryana Report Zero Students**

A recent report has revealed a concerning trend in Haryana's education sector: 19 government schools across the state have reported zero student enrolment. This alarming finding raises questions about the effectiveness of existing policies and infrastructure. The report underscores several potential factors contributing to this situation, including inadequate facilities, lack of qualified teachers, and limited community outreach. In some cases, schools are located in areas with declining populations or where families prefer private educational institutions. The government has been urged to take immediate action. Possible measures include enhancing school infrastructure, improving teacher recruitment and training, and implementing community engagement programs.

## **MCG News**

### **MCG's Revenue Shortfall Despite Increased Earnings**

Despite an increase in overall earnings, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has fallen significantly short of its revenue target from property taxes, achieving only about 50% of its goal. The MCG had set an ambitious target for the current fiscal year, but a combination of factors, including delays in tax collection and lower compliance rates among property owners, has led to this shortfall. This gap in expected revenue could impact the MCG's ability to fund critical infrastructure projects and public services. As Gurugram continues to grow rapidly, the MCG's ability to meet its revenue targets is crucial for sustaining the city's development and maintaining the quality of public services. The focus now shifts to closing the revenue gap and ensuring that future targets are met more effectively.