

GURGAON FIRST

• OUR CITY • OUR VOICE

Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Gurgaon

E-mail: teamgurgaonfirst@gmail.com

Environment & Sustainability

Haryana Clears ₹126-Crore Plan to Restart Bandhwari Biomining

The Haryana government approved a ₹126-Crore plan, on January 29, to restart biomining operations at the Bandhwari landfill after a six-month halt due to contractual delays. The revised timelines have been allotted to two agencies for processing approximately 14 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste. The landfill currently has more than 15 lakh metric tonnes of old waste, and receives a fresh inflow of 1,100 tonnes of waste every day from Gurugram, officials said. The project is being implemented in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and will be completed by March 2027. The resumption of biomining is essential to minimise environmental risks and to stop further build-up, authorities said.

Extreme Air Pollution Raises Alarm

Gurgaon experienced very poor air quality in January, with AQI often going into the “severe” category. Winter weather, along with emissions from vehicles and construction activities, exacerbated the situation. People experienced breathing difficulties, and health advisories were issued. The schools stopped outdoor activities and promoted awareness campaigns. Air pollution remains a problem in Gurgaon, with the authorities marking 33 sites in the city as major pollution hotspots. In 2026, efforts were made to lower particulate pollution, including approximately 10-20% reductions in road dust, construction activity, and vehicle emissions.

Unique method of combatting pollution

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is still in the very poor range in Gurugram, a housing complex in the city has taken a novel approach to tackling air pollution. DLF Primus in Sector 82 is implementing “artificial rain” in the area with sprinklers and water pipes which will help control dust and particulate matter and assist in firefighting.

Solar Energy Adoption Gains Momentum

With the launch of Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana by the central government, there was a considerable growth in the rooftop solar market in Gurgaon. For the first five months of 2026, the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) has received around 7,497 applications for rooftop solar systems from households in the city area. Of these, more than 4,200 connections are already in place, suggesting the widespread adoption of the project. The scheme offers financial support to up to ₹78,000 per family, based on the capacity of the system, promoting the adoption of renewable energy. This reflects a growing trend of adopting cost-effective and environmentally friendly electricity sources, especially in cities such as Gurgaon. It was noted that it has the potential to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the promotion of green energy. However, obstacles such as high initial costs and lack of awareness continue to limit broader adoption.

Water & Urban Services

GMDA Begins ₹750-Crore Drainage Upgrade for Flood-Prone Areas

The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) started the work on a drainage improvement project, estimated at ₹750 crore, in March to solve the drainage issues of chronic water logging in the city. The

project aims to address key areas prone to flooding, such as Golf Course Road, Sohna Road, and NH-48 service roads. This would involve the building of new master drains, widening of existing drains, and connection to the city's stormwater system, officials said. The upgrade will be part of a wider urban infrastructure planning to build resilience to the monsoon. Officials hope to complete key components before peak flood season, which is expected to significantly reduce flooding.

Sewer Desilting Work Speeds Up Across City

MCG has started to clean the sewer system ahead of the monsoon, cleaning approximately 70% of the sewer network, with the remaining 30% slated for around April 2026. The focus was on almost 40 critical water logging prone areas in Gurgaon. This project aims to alleviate flood and drainage problems in general, particularly in the areas of residential and commercial buildings that are prone to flooding. The project was designed to reduce the risk of waterlogging during the monsoon season, which is expected to occur during the next four months, by clearing blocked drains and improving water circulation. There has been major progress in cleaning major sewer lines, authorities reported. This was essential for providing improved urban water management and sanitation. The residents were happy with the change but indicated that a routine maintenance was needed. It's an effort to improve the governance and infrastructure planning to tackle the recurring drainage and flooding problem in Gurgaon.

Infrastructure & Development

DHBVN Issues Final Notice in ₹1,136-Crore Smart Grid Project

In March, Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) finalized notices against Tata Projects for failure to complete the smart grid project, which is valued at ₹1,136 crore. The project, which was initiated eight years ago, is designed to upgrade the city's electricity infrastructure by replacing the traditional power lines with underground cables, using automated transformers and real-time monitoring systems. Progress is hindered by not having key components finished, officials said. The discom has said it will impose penalties if work is not done by the new deadline. The smart grid, once in use, will have the potential to increase the reliability of energy supply, minimize energy losses and boost efficiency.

Over 3,500 LED Streetlights Installed Under Energy Efficiency Drive

In March, over 3,500 traditional street lights were replaced in the city of Gurugram as part of the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) programme. The shift is expected to save the municipal electricity consumption by 30-35% which is equivalent to 10 crore rupees per year, officials said. The upgrade included the upgrading of major arterial roads as well as internal sector roads. LED lighting is also said to offer better visibility and lower maintenance costs, thanks to its expected long lifespan. The project is part of a larger effort to promote sustainable urban development and energy efficiency in the city.

Power Demand Rises 12% as Early Summer Sets In

The peak electricity demand for the month of February was around 4,300 MW in Gurugram, which is 12% higher than the previous year, data from DHBVN has revealed. Early summer conditions, and the use of air conditioners and cooling appliances, were cited as the main reason for the surge. The discoms also worked towards creating a balance in the rising load by strengthening their short-term procurement of power and managing their feeder-level supply management. Nevertheless, in some locations short power cuts were experienced during peak times. While the system continues to be enhanced under the RDSS, improvements to the infrastructure are expected to be completed ahead of the summer peak demand season, officials said.

Over 2,000 Smart Meters Installed in Pilot Phase Across Gurugram

DHBVN has deployed over 2,000 smart meters in January as part of the smart metering rollout in Gurugram under RDSS initiative. The pilot work was done in specific areas of Sectors 45, 46 and DLF Phase 2. The meters help with real-time electricity consumption monitoring, automated billing and faster outage detection and power theft detection, officials said. The idea is to minimize discrepancies in their bills and increase the

efficiency of their distribution network. In the next stage, DHBVN will increase the system's use to more than 1 lakh consumers. Under the central government scheme, smart metering is an important part of the power sector reforms.

New Infrastructure Projects Announced

There were new announcements related to new infrastructure projects focused on street connectivity and urban development in Gurgaon during the month of March. Authorities stated that the city is planning for massive infrastructure projects, such as redeveloping more than 600 km of roads in a comprehensive urban development plan of ₹1,900+ crore. These projects are designed to enhance connectivity, alleviate congestion, and facilitate swift urban development. These included upgrading of roads, drainage and public facility improvements. The projects were designed to contribute to the city's booming expansion and fill in infrastructure deficits. The plans were approved but the residents pointed out the need for speedy implementation with transparency. Such projects are crucial for Gurgaon's long-term development.

Transport & Mobility

Public Transport Expansion Plans Discussed

There was a special emphasis on the development of public transportation in Gurgaon in January. The lack of buses was pointed out and plans were made to improve the bus fleet. Gurgaon pointed out a huge gap in mobility with just 150 buses in service when the need is around 1,000 buses. Authorities were to introduce 200 more buses in 2026 to enhance public transport and ease congestion. Lack of buses remains a cause of traffic congestion and high pollution in the city. The city's reliance on private cars has resulted in traffic congestion and pollution. It was felt that sustainable mobility could only be achieved through better public transport. Experts recommended integrating buses with metro connectivity and push for last mile connectivity solutions. The change is in response to a trend in urban planning and transportation to become more eco-friendly.

Public Safety & Society

Women Safety Measures Strengthened

In March, authorities in Gurgaon took additional steps to improve women's safety. Some measures implemented included enhanced policing efforts, CCTV installations and awareness campaigns. The programs were designed to create safer public places, particularly after dark. The residents applauded the initiative, but emphasized the importance of proper implementation. Safety of women remains one of the foremost issues in the city of Gurgaon.