

# Admin goes hi-tech, to revive aquifers with sewage water

**TO MEET SUMMER DEMAND** Talks on to introduce project at 17 locations, pond to be replenished

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**GURGAON:** To ensure the city does not have dry spell this summer, the district administration is looking at recharging the groundwater table using sewerage.

Officials said a special portable machine, developed and patented in Sweden, will be used to treat sewerage and release it into water bodies. A pilot project in this regard has been started at Kadipur village in Gurgaon city on Thursday where a pond is being filled with treated sewerage.

A demo of the technology was held by Waterneer Technologies India Private Limited, an NGO, in collaboration with Green Build Energy Private Limited and Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon in the presence Union minister of state for planning and defence Rao Inderjit Singh.

An abandoned pond was readied for the project with the help of the MCG and it is will be filled with treated water in next five months.

"This is a good initiative and is essential for recharging groundwater table in cities such as Gurgaon where the water level has fallen alarmingly," said Singh after reviewing the demonstration.

Resident director of Delhi-based Waterneer Chandni Sooad said the treated water is not potable but it could be safely used for irrigation and construction purposes. "Such an option is needed in cities where heavy construction work is on. We plan to expand this technology to provide treated water for irrigation purposes so that farmers do not use fresh water from bore wells or other sources," she said.

Sood said they have identified about 17 locations in Gurgaon district where this project will be introduced. "Talks are on with authorities for implementing the project within the MCG limits also," she said.

Chairman of Green Build Pawan Kumar Tibrawalla said the machine requires a 5 kilowatt power connection and also has an option of using diesel in the absence of electricity.



■ A special portable machine, developed and patented in Sweden, will be used to treat sewerage and release it into water bodies. HT PHOTO

## WHY THE MOVE?

- The 2011 report of Central Ground Water Authority says groundwater extraction in Gurgaon was more than 312%
- The district was notified as over-exploited zone in 2008 and was among one of the 162 notified areas across the country for regulation of ground water extraction
- Gurgaon district has more than 9,000 registered bore wells while unregistered bore wells, according to officials, are believed to be more than 15,000
- Machine treats 15,000 litres water per hour
- The machine works 10-12 hours per day
- Treated water can be safely used for irrigation

## Basai gets new pumps, power system for uninterrupted supply

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**GURGAON:** To ensure that Gurgaon does not suffer from water shortage the summer, the Haryana Urban Development Corporation (Huda) plans to pump water into the Gurgaon water channel (GWC) that supplies to Basai near Chandu Budhera.

The Huda is also installing a special power system to reduce outages at the Basai plant, which supplies 55 MGD of water to Gurgaon.

As far as reduced water supply to GWC is concerned, it was revealed that a 4-km stretch between Mundakhera and Chandu village is in bad shape. As this part of the canal will not be able

to withstand the pressure if full flow is ensured, the canal irrigation officials are releasing only 70 per cent of the water the channel is meant to carry.

Huda officials will meet the deficiency by pumping the rest into GWC from Chandu Budhera.

Huda executive engineer Bhoop Singh said three new pumps will be installed by the irrigation department in the next couple of days to pump water from NCR channel to GWC.

"Six pumps will be made operational and this will increase the water supply to 130 cusecs," Singh said.

Huda is also procuring a new power system from a Nasik-based firm to ensure that there are no

outages or fluctuations in power at the Basai plant this summer. In the past, Basai often stopped operations as the power infrastructure there is not able to withstand heavy load.

The power equipment at the plant is 20 years old and once a fault is reported it takes more than a day to correct it, officials said.

A customised power system will reach Gurgaon by the second week of this month, officials said.

HUDA executive engineer, electrical, Arun Dhanekar said 1250 kva transformer will also be set up at the plant. The authority is also planning to set up 66 kva substation at the water treatment plant that will ensure regular supply during the summer.

## GOVT TO APPOINT CONSULTANT TO TACKLE TRAFFIC CONGESTION

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**GURGAON:** The district task force for infrastructure of Gurgaon held a key meeting in Chandigarh on Thursday and discussed infrastructure projects for the city.

The meeting chaired by chief secretary DS Dhesi decided to appoint a traffic consultant within a week to suggest measures for reducing the pressure on roads.

It was also decided that flyovers and underpasses planned in different parts of Gurgaon, such as Vatika Crossing, Fazilpur Crossing and Huda City Centre, will be taken up only after a report is submitted by the consultant.

The meeting also decided that a flyover and underpass will be built near the Atul Kataria Chowk, on the Old-Delhi Gurgaon Road, to reduce congestion caused by movement of heavy trucks and car carriers headed to the Maruti factory.

It was also decided that service roads on Sohna Road will be rebuilt by the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) as a number of people are forced to use the main carriageway as the service road is unusable.

Revival of Bandhwari solid waste management plant — that has been lying defunct for the past three years — was also discussed in detail by the senior officials from Gurgaon with the mandarins in Chandigarh.

The chief secretary also asked Haryana Urban Development Authority and the MCG to prepare a feasibility report for the management of construction debris. The builders were also directed to recycle this waste as per norms.

Acting Municipal Corporation Commissioner TL Satyaprakash said the task force meeting focused primarily on resolving the traffic situation in Gurgaon apart from building better infrastructure.

He said that a development plan is being prepared for the city.



■ Officials said the move is part of the second phase of taking MCG services online. HT FILE PHOTO

## Get building plans approved online soon

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**GURGAON:** Copies of approved building plans, no-objection certificates (NOCs), status of approvals or remarks by various civic authorities for a building project, will soon be a click away. The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) is all set to put such information and documents online.

The initiative will streamline the process of documentation for all those planning to buy under-construction properties or redevelop their homes. Joint Commissioner Rohit Yadav said the project is part of the second phase of taking MCG services online. Earlier, the issuance of fire NOCs were automated.

"There has been a rise in complaints of builders deceiving flat purchasers, existing tenants or owners by making false claims regarding approved built-up and carpet areas and elevations for under-construction and redevelopment properties. On feeding the survey number of the plot, all official documents, approvals, and submissions will be available online for a prescribed fee, officials said.

A senior official said there are plans to incorporate online remarks of civic bodies — on whether the plot was affected by a public reservation — on the same portal. The remarks are mandatory before processing any building project approval.

MCG officials said a company will be selected through a tendering process for the online process. Apart from developing the software, the company would also maintain the same for five years.

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SENIOR OFFICIAL, Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon

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## MCG conducts 4 anti-encroachment drives in Fazilpur, Ghasola areas

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**GURGAON:** The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) on Thursday razed shops, shanties and food stalls during an anti-encroachment drive in four areas across the city.

The drives were held on both sides of the road in Fazilpur, Ghasola, new railway and Sector 23.

Acting MCG commissioner TL Satyaprakash supervised the drive along with district town planning officials and the police.

"Officials were given instructions to widen the main road since there is a heavy flow of traffic there and make arrangements to decongest the area as the illegal structures were causing inconvenience to commuters. Despite several warnings, the illegal occupants did not move from the area. So we initiated the anti-encroachment drive," Satyaprakash said.

Another official of the MCG said the civic body razed a number of shops, food stalls and shanties constructed illegally on government land. Assets of the shop owners were confiscated and structures were demolished using earthmovers.

The vendors and shopkeepers had encroached upon public roads and this leads to frequent snarls, officials said. MCG officials said the drive was started after the civic body received a large number of complaints about accidents on these stretches. Also, there were complaints that the congested lanes posed problems during emergency situations.

Last week, the MCG conducted a similar drive at the Palam Vihar-New Delhi border and Rajiv Chowk.

Citizens have been asked to report encroachments in the city on the MCG's toll-free number -- 1800-180-1817.

**THE DRIVE WAS STARTED AFTER REPEATED COMPLAINTS OF ACCIDENTS**

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Security guard by night, teacher to street children by day



■ Lakhan Athya with the children in the Sector 57 park where he teaches them. HT PHOTO

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**GURGAON:** While residents of Sector 50 sleep peacefully in their houses, Lakhan Athya, 22, stays awake the whole night guarding the locality. When dawn breaks, he returns to his rented accommodation in Sector 57 to collect books and prepare for his "day duty" — one that he does out of compassion and as a service to society.

Armed with books he bought with his own money, Athya dons the hat of a teacher to the underprivileged children in Sector 57.

The two-hour class each day has resulted in these kids being able to write their names — a simple task that puts a smile on the faces of the pupils and their teacher.

Born and brought up in Bilakala village in Madhya Pradesh, Athya had to leave his studies after class 9 due to the financial crunch in his family. He started working to help his family. In 2013, he came to Gurgaon along with a relative who got him the job of a security guard in Sector 50.

I have always wanted to contribute to a social cause but did not know how. This initiative has given me a platform where everything is defined and I know that my efforts will definitely benefit the children.

LAKHAN ATHYA, security guard, Sector 56

Athya took a room on rent in Sector 57, and, very soon, he had both a night and day job.

"I was shocked when these children told me that they have never been to school — they could not read or write. That day, I decided that I will educate them with what little I have," Lakhan said.

Every month, he buys books and notepads for the children and spend two hours each day in the park teaching them.

Touched by Athya's service, the residents of Sector 57 said those studying in colleges and higher educational institutions too should come forward to give a helping hand to such children.

"If young people come forward to teach underprivileged children even for an hour a week, it could change the children's present and future. Rather than financial aid, these children need the support of educated people," said Pushp Dahiya, who spotted Athya teaching the children while she came to drop her son for gymnastics classes in the park.

"I have always wanted to contribute toward a social cause. But I did not know how to do it and where to begin. This initiative has given me a platform where everything is defined and I know that my efforts will definitely benefit the children," Athya said.

"The children studying in the park caught my attention and I was touched to see it. I too want to be part of the movement which will bring a change in the lives of children for the better," said Sumita Gildiyal a home-maker.

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