

Swachhata in Every Shard: Ghaziabad Turns Glass Waste into Glory

Posted On: 16 MAR 2026 5:28PM by PIB Delhi

Under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0, the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has taken a remarkable step toward circularity with the launch of a Glass Upcycling Centre, offering the city an innovative solution for glass waste management.



India generates nearly 3 million tonnes of glass waste every year. Glass is 100% recyclable without any loss of quality. Under the current EPR guidelines (implemented through CPCB under the Plastic Waste Management Rules for packaging materials), glass containers & bottles are explicitly included with targets for recovery and recycling — with planned increases year-on-year (e.g., 50% target in 2026-27 rising to 80% by 2029-30).

In the fast-growing city of Ghaziabad, where progress hums through busy streets and expanding neighbourhood, mountains of municipal waste rise quietly each day. Tucked within this tide of trash is a small but stubborn fraction - about 3 to 4% - glass waste. Unlike organic waste, glass does not decompose; it lingers in landfills for centuries, reflecting a missed opportunity for recovery and reuse. Recognizing this hidden challenge, Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) stepped in with a purposeful vision. Under its 3R (Reduce–Reuse–Recycle) approach and commitment to a circular economy, the city launched a focused initiative to transform discarded glass into something valuable, turning fragments once bound for landfills into resources that contribute to cleanliness, sustainability, and a greener urban future.



Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam, in collaboration with the Excise Department, has directed all bars and model shops to hand over empty glass and wine bottles to the Nagar Nigam Glass Upcycling Plant for scientific recycling. This proper channelization prevents bottles from being reused for illicit liquor production and also reduces the risk of injuries to waste pickers by ensuring safe and responsible recycling.



At the Municipal Corporation's MRF Centre in Akbarpur Baharampur, Vijay Nagar, discarded and broken glass bottles - often found in garbage heaps or drains, are being given a new life. Instead of ending up in landfills, these bottles are transformed into beautiful and functional products such as candle stands, pen holders, decorative statues, crockery items, and glasses.



The initiative has been supported through CSR funding by Horizon Industrial Parks, with active participation from Self-Help Group (SHG) women and support from social organization "Saarth." This collaborative effort not only ensures scientific disposal of glass waste but also creates dignified livelihood opportunities for women.



Every day, the centre receives glass that would otherwise end up in landfills and gives it a second life. Instead of being discarded, the glass is cut, polished, reshaped, and transformed into useful products, broken bottles become candle stands, rejected jars turn into pen holders, and waste glass is crafted into

figurines, crockery, glasses, and décor items for homes and institutions. The glass is sourced through the municipal collection system, including waste collected from households and commercial establishments by GNN vehicles. This initiative strengthens source segregation and material recovery at the MRF level while advancing GNN's broader 3R (Reduce–Reuse–Recycle) campaign. The Capacity of the plant is 200 bottles per day.

The Commissioner, Vikramaditya Singh Malik, emphasized that proper management of glass waste is essential for urban cleanliness and environmental sustainability. Municipal vehicles will now collect glass waste separately from households and commercial establishments, ensuring its channelization to the upcycling centre.

The Glass Upcycling Centre represents more than waste management. It symbolizes a shift from “waste to best.” By converting discarded bottles into attractive utility and décor items, the city is demonstrating how innovation, environmental responsibility, and women empowerment can go hand in hand. With strong leadership and dedicated teamwork, Ghaziabad continues to move toward a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future - proving that even broken glass can shine again.

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