

## NEAR CROSSINGS REPUBLIK

# GDA and private developer pass the buck on repairing the ABES-Shahberi Road

Peeyush Khandelwal

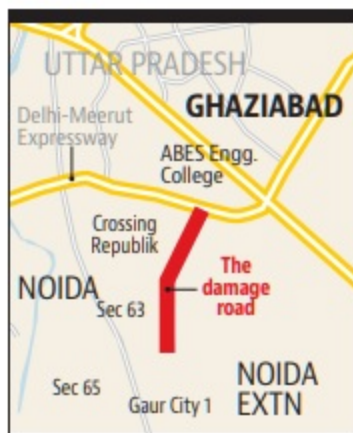
peeyush.khandelwal@htlive.com

**GHAZIABAD:** Repair work on the nearly one kilometre-long battered stretch connecting Ghaziabad to Noida Extension hangs in the balance as the Ghaziabad development authority (GDA) and developers of Crossings Republik are passing the buck. According to residents, the road, connecting National Highway-9 to Shahberi, is used by thousands of commuters everyday to travel between the two cities.

Residents said that the potholed road has become a nightmare for commuters and that it witnesses traffic jams on a daily basis.

The road, constructed adjacent to the Crossings Republik township, is a lifeline for residents as it is the only major road which connects them to Ghaziabad to Noida Extension.

"Traffic jams here can last up



to 30 to 45 minutes during peak hours. Most of the office goers in the area use this road but it has developed potholes since last year's monsoon. We have approached the authorities and they have promised repairs after the Lok Sabha elections get over," Tarun Bharat Chauhan, president of Crossing Republik owners and members association, said.

The officials of the Ghaziabad authority, however, said that the

onus of the reconstruction work rests with the developers.

"The developers of Crossings Republik township did not pay up external development charges. So, they will have take up the reconstruction. The traffic on the road has increased over the years. If the developers fail to reconstruct (the road), the authority will reconstruct the road and recover the cost from the developers," Kanchan Verma, authority's vice chairperson, said.

On the other hand Manoj Gaur, the managing director of Gaurs Group, one of the prominent developers of the township, said that the developers had paid up city development charges (CDC) to the authority.

"The developers paid CDC as it was part of the township policy. The road is external to the township. So the development has to be done by the authority. Since commuters were facing problems, we constructed a culvert on

our own near Shahberi as a goodwill gesture. We are also maintaining a 45 metre Master Plan road which is inside the township. The broken road is outside the township," he added.

"During the initial stages of the development of the township, we had got the road constructed and repaired on our own. The land for the road had been acquired by the GDA and we are still to get the compensation for it. Technically, the road is not part of the township," he added.

The authority's Master Plan department officials said that although the developers had paid up the CDC, the road falls between the two township areas on either side. "The township had not been handed over to the corporation yet. The road is internal between the two township areas on either side hence it is an internal road and the developers need to pay for repairs," Ishtiyaq Ahmad, authority's chief architect & town planning officer