

Haryana Review

An initiative of Directorate of Information, Public Relations & Languages, Government of Haryana

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RS 8,585-CR MTEF BOOST TO ECONOMY

Haryana has adopted a futuristic budget for the financial year 2021-22

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GRASSROOTS GOVERNANCE GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM P 4

CORONA TRACKER

ACTIVE CASES - 3,212 SAMPLES TESTED - 59,25,266 PATIENTS DISCHARGED - 2,69,268 RECOVERY RATE - 97.72% POSITIVITY RATE - 4.66% FATALITY RATE - 1.12%

ON MARCH 15, 2021

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BUDGETING TO GET BANG OUT OF EVERY BUCK

CM packs his Rs 1.55 lakh crore-Budget for 2021-22 with initiatives

By PARVEEN K MODI

It is a budget that budgets not only for the year ahead, but for the future. The Rs 1.55 lakh crore-Budget for 2021-22, presented to the Haryana Assembly by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal—his second in a row as Finance Minister too—is packed with innovative measures to spur V-shaped recovery. More importantly, it contains provisions to get the bang out of every buck that is earned and spent. No fresh taxes have been levied.

In size, the Budget is 13 pc bigger than the Revised Estimates of Rs 1,37,738 crore for 2020-21. Futuristic, the proposals have the focus riveted on key sectors like agriculture, education, social welfare, infrastructure, and, on further easing the ease of living. These lay great store by capital expenditure for the creation of assets, so vital for generating jobs and placing the economy of the state, recovering from the reeling effect of the ravaging pandemic, in higher growth trajectory.

The road to V-shaped recovery is paved with such innovative steps as setting up of first-of-its kind Rs 8,585-crore MTTE Reserve Fund to finance capital infrastructure projects; monetization of assets; bringing social welfare schemes under the output-input framework to account for every rupee allocated; and convergence between and among different departments to bring about the desired cohesive results. The stress is on implementation.

Thematically structured, the budget facilitates inter-sectoral transfer of funds which means that funds lying surplus with one department could be used by another. In his two hours and 40 minutes-long Budget speech, the Chief Minister anchored the Budget on 5S—Shiksha, Swasthaya, Suraksha, Swabhiman and Swavlambhan



We are committed to ensuring welfare of the very last person standing in the queue. Like last year, Budget this year too has focused on all-round development of the state.

Manohar Lal
Chief Minister



to facilitate inclusive growth, ensure economic uplift of the poor and bring prosperity in every family. It sucks to be poor, hence the Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Uthhan Abhiyan to reach out to the poorest one lakh families in the state.

"We are committed to ensuring the welfare of the very last person standing in the queue. Like last year, Budget this year too has focused on all-round development of the state", said the Chief Minister.

Key sectors get a hike in allocation. The Budget has allocated Rs 6,110 crore for agriculture and allied activities (up 20.9 per cent); Rs. 18,410 crore (17.8 pc more) for education; Rs 10,798 crore (6.7 pc more) for uplift of the weaker sections of the society; Rs. 4,606 crore for Health and Family Welfare; and Rs 3,970 crore for Urban Local Bodies. Old age pension has been hiked from Rs 2250 to Rs 2500 from April 1, 2021.

Fiscal prudence, an order made tall by the dents caused to the economy by the pandemic, is hallmark of the Budget. Most fiscal parameters have been kept confined to the limits prescribed under the FRBM Act. Fiscal deficit has been projected at 2.9 per cent in RE 2020-21 and 3.83 per cent in BE 2021-22, well under the 4 per cent limit. Debt-to-GDP ratio which was 23.27 pc in RE 2020-21 is estimated to go up to 25.92 pc in BE 2021-22, well within the limit of 32.6 pc.

The Covid-induced contraction in the economy in 2020-21 is estimated at 5.65 pc, lower than 7.69



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, arriving to present the Budget for 2021-22
Photograph By Vinay Malik

Highlights

- Rs 1.55 lakh-crore Budget for 2021-22 is 13 pc more than last year; no fresh taxes levied
- Initiatives like MTEF Reserve Fund aim at V-shaped recovery
- The proposals are anchored on 5S—Shiksha, Swasthaya, Suraksha, Swabhiman and Swavlambhan to facilitate inclusive growth
- Key parameters bear out fiscal prudence
- Higher allocations for sectors like Agriculture, Education and Social Welfare

pc at the national level. Similarly, the Per Capita Income is estimated to have shrunk from Rs 2,47,628 in 2019-20 to Rs 2,39,535 at constant prices. At the national level, it fell from Rs 1,34,186 in 2019-20 to Rs 1,27,768 in 2020-21.

The revenue receipts are anticipated to increase by 15.23 pc in BE 2021-22 to Rs 87,733.22 crore from Rs 76,135.24 crore in RE 2020-21. In real terms, revenue deficit is 2.32 per cent in place of 3.29 per cent. Effective revenue deficit, relatively a pragmatic indicator of fiscal performance which was 2.81 pc of GSDP in 2016-17, was brought down to 1.67 per cent in RE 2020-21, and is projected to be 1.42 per cent, net of infrastructure projects in BE 2021-22.

Culling opportunity out of a crisis situation, and fiscal constraints notwithstanding, the Budget makes a bold attempt to balance growth with equity, and divergence with convergence.

Assembly sessions set to go paperless

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Even as a paperless budget was presented by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, with tablet facilities being provided to all Assembly members, preparations are being made to make the Assembly sessions completely paperless from the forthcoming monsoon session.

"Tablets would be installed at

the desk of all ministers and MLAs for complete digitalisation of transactions in the House", said a senior official in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha. The groundwork has been done and, if it happens, Assembly in Haryana would be the second state after Himachal Pradesh, to go paperless in the country.

This Budget session lent a major push to digitalisation of the proceedings. A budget of Rs 20 crore has been earmarked for the purpose

which would be jointly shared by the Centre and the state. While the Chief Minister read out the budget speech from a tablet, the Assembly members also had electronic gadgets in their hands to take part in the proceedings.

The Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Mr Gian Chand Gupta, said he had been making efforts to implement the concept of e-Vidhan Sabha. Despite COVID-19, we have been successful in implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application.

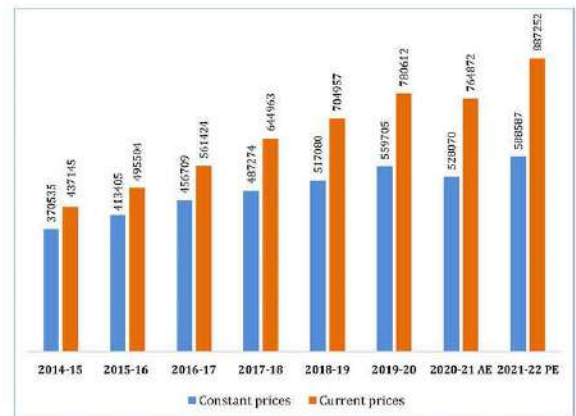
He said a team led by him visited Himachal Pradesh Assembly early this month to take stock of things.

The Vidhan Sabha library will also be digitized soon. A large amount of paper is used during the Question Hour and on Calling Attention, Ordinances, Bills and other legislative work. After implementation of the paperless initiative, an amount of about Rs 15 crore will be saved. It will also help in environmental protection, Mr Gupta added.

Budget at a glance

- The proposed Budget of Rs. 1,55,645.45 crore for 2021-22 is 13 per cent higher than the revised Budget of Rs. 1,37,738.29 crore for 2020-21.
- In 2021-22, total revenue is estimated at Rs 87,733.22 crore.
- Total revenue expenditure in 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 1,16,927.17 crore.
- Total capital expenditure in 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 10,557.09 crore.
- State GDP grew by 8.3 per cent between 2014-15 and 2019-20.
- Fiscal deficit projected at 2.9 per cent in revised budget for 2020-21 and 3.8 per cent in budget for 2021-22, well within the limits.
- The debt-to-state-GDP ratio is within the limits set by the Central Finance Commission and FRBM Act.
- Reserve fund of Rs 8,585 crore set up
- In 2020-21, the share of the primary sector increased to 19.1 per cent, but the share of the secondary sector declined to 30 per cent. Share of tertiary sectors was 50.9 per cent.
- The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in only 5.65 per cent contraction in the state's GDP, while the all-India GDP contracted by 7.69 per cent.

GSDP at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices (₹Crore)

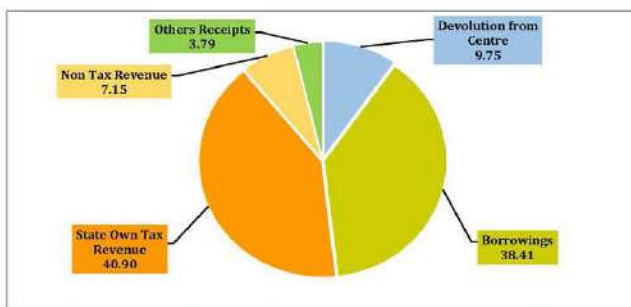


Per Capita Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices (In ₹)

- Haryana has the highest per capita income amongst the major States of India.
- Growth of 62.53 per cent at current prices and 31.16 per cent at constant prices from 2014-15 to 2020-21.

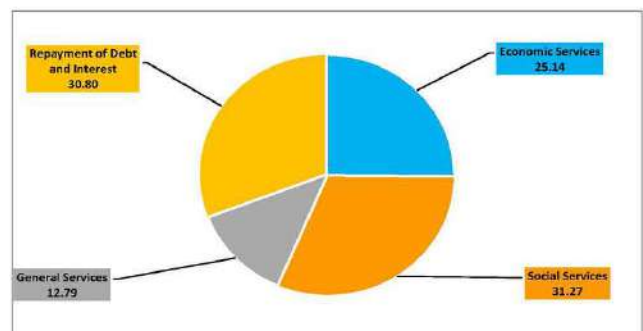


Consolidated Fund (2021-22) Rupee comes from (percent)



Components of Receipts	Percentage Share 2021-22 (BE)
Devolution from Centre	9.75
State Share from Central Taxes	4.79
Central Share under CSS and other Grants	4.96
Borrowings	38.41
State Development Loan	26.48
Food Procurement	9.75
NABARD and NCRPB	1.10
Ways and Means	0.60
Govt Loan	0.14
Others	0.34
State Own Tax Revenue	40.90
SGST	22.07
VAT	7.25
State Excise	6.06
Stamps and Registration	3.29
Taxes on Vehicles	1.98
Others	0.25
Non Tax Revenue	7.15
Transport	1.65
Urban Development	1.39
Mines and Geology	1.32
Education	0.36
Others	2.43
Others Receipts	3.79

Consolidated Fund (2021-22) Rupee Goes to (percent)



Component of Expenditure	Percentage Share 2021-22 (BE)
Economic Services	25.14
Agri. and allied including irrigation & RE subsidy	10.33
Transport, Civil Aviation, Roads & Bridges	3.32
Rural Development & Panchayats	3.82
Others	7.67
Social Services	31.27
Education	12.14
Social Welfare & Nutrition	6.40
Health & Family Welfare	4.70
Public Health Engineering	2.18
Others	5.85
General Services	12.79
Administrative Services	4.52
Pension	5.91
Others	2.36
Repayment of Debt	30.80
Principal	18.09
Interest	12.71

RS 8,585-CR MTEF BOOST TO ECONOMY

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

In a boost to the efforts aimed at V-shaped economic recovery and building back better in view of the coronavirus induced reverses, Haryana has adopted a futuristic budget for the financial year 2021-22 which Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal presented in the Assembly on March 12. From Mid Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to monetization of assets, Antyodaya to job creation, Rs 1,55,645 crore budget, increase of 13 per cent over the Revised Estimates 2020-21 of Rs 1,37,738 crore, aspires rightly to build a resilient and resurgent Haryana.

"The State is all set to mark a paradigm shift in its architecture by allocating an unmet fund of Rs 8,585 crores as MTEF. We intend to utilize the resources earmarked under MTEF fund this year on special projects that focus on augmenting health, agriculture and infrastructure facilities," says Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

Taking a pioneering step towards strengthening Haryana's economy through capital investment as the prime focus of this year's budget and further improving outcomes and bringing in more synergy, the allocations of budget 2021-22 have been done by clubbing departments in specific sectoral areas. This thematic integration of different departments would facilitate delivery of expected results through coordination and convergence among

Output-outcome framework

Haryana is the first state in the country to have developed an Output Outcome Framework – accounting for every rupee allocated in the budget. Haryana is also the first state in the country to have linked the budgetary expenditure to progress under specific SDGs. The State has established an SDG Coordination Centre in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Haryana intends to take this forward through the Haryana Institute of Fiscal Management. With this focused approach on outcomes, Haryana will move forward in realizing 'Vision 2030'.

relevant departments contributing towards common goals.

"This pioneering and first of its kind MTEF funding structure will remove uncertainty of allocations and will ensure that projects are planned in a proper and sustainable manner. Other significant advantages of the Reserve Fund include flexibility to allocate for

projects that are anchored in multiple sectors and focus on priority sectors," said the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Ministry.

What makes the Budget 2021-22 distinctly different is its focus on four pillars -- prioritization of key areas, creation of MTEF reserve fund, outcome led growth, and focus on implementation. While understanding the importance to prioritize on specific sectors in budget that are key to leverage a rebound in the economy, particularly in times of crisis, the State Government has identified health, agriculture and infrastructure as key priority areas that need to be focussed on to arrest the contraction in economy and take a path of resurgence.

This four pillared approach forms the basis of the State government's strategy to achieve a 'V-shaped' recovery and pave the way for a resurgent economy. The acceleration of economic growth in Haryana should target increasing income and purchasing power of every individual of the State.

"We have decided to adopt this uniquely crafted roadmap and hope that this will result in crossing many milestones in the economic journey of our state and transforming into a vibrant and Aatmnirbhar Haryana with sustainable, inclusive and grassroots level development," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

In conclusion, exceptional circumstances need an exceptional policy stance, and business as usual will not work. Investment on

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

It is important to improve governance and delivery of services to ensure that the benefits accruing from these projects are well targeted to intended beneficiaries. A pioneering initiative of Parivar Pehchan Patra launched last year has made rapid strides and has achieved comprehensive coverage. This initiative will go a long way in improving the 'Ease of Living' of citizens of the State, by targeting 'paperless', 'faceless' service delivery to citizens. It will help in achieving citizen convenience and good governance in the State.

"Our strategy for implementation is guided by principles of Antyodaya – of serving and uplifting the last person first. Taking a leaf from the successful aspirational district programme of the Government of India, we intend to adopt an aspirational block approach to augur comprehensive and transformative development to focus on the least developed blocks of the State and focus on their development," said Chief Minister.

MUKHYAMANTRI ANTYODAYA UTTAN ABHIYAN

The Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Utthan Abhiyan aims to draw verified data from the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) and identify the poorest one lakh families in the State. Under this Abhiyan, the government aims for economic upliftment of two lakh families in the financial year 2021-22. Through sustained efforts, Haryana has ensured appropriate quality of expenditure, particularly capital expenditure which is necessary to fill the gap in expenditure needs for infrastructure. SDGs have been embedded in developmental priorities. However, there is a need to reorient our approaches and strategies in view of the reverses caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

infrastructure is extremely crucial to boost demand in the state economy. The acceleration of economic growth in Haryana is being ensured by increasing income and purchas-

ing power of the people. The roadmap adopted in the form of Budget 2021-22 is truly aligned with the idea of building a vibrant, resilient and Aatma Nirbhar Haryana.

Key features of MTEF

- MTEF reserve fund to give a boost to V-shaped recovery. MTEF projects will be used for three thrust sectors – agriculture, infrastructure, and health.
- All the projects in these sectors will be implemented on the basis of three underlying activities – job creation, aspirational blocks, and Antyodaya.
- To remove uncertainty of allocations and ensure the projects are planned in a proper and sustainable manner.
- Flexibility to allocate for projects that are anchored in multiple sectors and focus on priority sectors.
- Aims at increasing income and purchasing power of every individual, making Haryana a vibrant and Aatmnirbhar with sustainable, inclusive and grassroots level development.



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, presenting the Budget for 2021-22 to the Haryana Assembly

Photograph provided By DIPRL, Haryana

Grassroots governance gets a shot in the arm

Chief Minister outlines three key initiatives in Budget proposals

By PARVEEN K MODI

Determined to give grassroots governance a shot in the arm, the Haryana Government has rolled out some key initiatives. These aim to not only transfer essential decision-making powers down the governance pyramid, including to the Urban Local

Bodies (ULBs) as well as to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), but also ensure them a perennial flow of funds.

The state government is of the firm conviction that grassroots governance alone can offer solutions to the basic problems people face. This means transferring essential decision-making powers all the way down the governance pyramid, in-

cluding the ULBs and PRIs.

Outlining these initiatives while presenting the Budget proposals for 2021-22 in the state Assembly, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, said these included monetizing locked-up assets, performance-indexing of municipalities, and launch of Gram Darshan, a unique technology-based initiative to realize the objective of demo-

cratic decentralization.

With a view to monetizing locked-up assets, the government plans to bring a policy for the sale of leased-out shops and other assets which are in possession of the lessees for 20 years or more. While boosting the finances of ULBs, it will provide ownership to thousands of such small shopkeepers and other lessees. The policy is on the anvil and details would be announced shortly, the Chief Minister said.

The state government is also considering a proposal to introduce performance-indexing of municipalities at the municipal corporation as well as municipal council/committee level, to create a positive atmosphere of healthy competition among these bodies. It will award incentive to such municipalities as achieve the performance level fixed in the Municipal Performance Index.

Besides, a unique technology-based initiative – Gram Darshan – has been conceived to ensure for democratic decentralization. This will enable any resident of a Gram Panchayat to submit his or her demand for development works.

Once endorsed by the public representatives, the work will be implemented by the concerned PRI or government agency subject to availability of funds. This unique initiative will permit direct people's participation in development of rural areas and lead to decentralization of decision-making in development works.

"The state government is committed to making the third tier of government financially viable and independent units. I am delighted to share that my government has already taken many concrete steps to strengthen the ULBs. A very progressive step has been taken to hold direct election of mayors and presidents of municipal cor-

porations and municipal councils/committees, respectively through amendments to the applicable legislation," Mr Manohar Lal said.

He listed a series of measures taken to transfer both financial and administrative powers to these institutions. To augment the financial resources of ULBs, 2% stamp duty earned on registration of immovable properties in the municipal areas which would earlier flow to the state government and then to the ULBs would be directly deposited in equal ratio in the bank accounts of respective municipalities and ULBs. This will ensure a regular flow of funds to the local bodies.

Then for PRIs, the government has enhanced resources by giving them various financial powers. A surcharge on stamp duty @ of 2% of the value of the property has been levied in the rural areas also w.e.f. 24.02.2021 and 1% of the collected revenue shall be given directly to the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti and remaining 1% will be given directly to the Gram Panchayats.

The Zila Parishad Panchayat Samitis and the Gram Panchayats will get about Rs.400 crore annually. On the same lines, 2% Panchayat Duty on the consumption of electricity has been levied w.e.f. 28.01.2021 and Gram Panchayats will get about Rs. 100 crore annually on this account, he said.

"I am proposing an outlay of Rs 3,970 crore for Urban Local Bodies which includes Rs 1,500 crore from the State Finance Commission and Rs. 2,470 crore from State Budget. Similarly, for Rural Development and Panchayat an outlay of Rs 5,980 crore has been proposed that includes Rs 1,755 crore from the State Finance Commission and Rs. 4,225 crores from the State Budget, the Chief Minister added.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

650 kms of new roads is the target

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

Lending thrust on infrastructure and stepping up capital investment to ensure V-shaped recovery, the Haryana Government has put in place first-of-its-kind pioneering funding structure. 'Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Reserve Fund', and drawn up elaborate plans to undertake construction of 650 km of new roads, and improvement of about 5,000 km roads by 2022-23.

Unfolding the plans while presenting his Budget proposals for 2021-22 in the state Assembly, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, said these included constructing highways, metalled roads, bye-passes, railway over-bridges; railway under-bridges and four-laning of some stretches. By 2022-23, the government would undertake construction of metalled roads wherever feasible on all kacha paths of six karam or more.

In order to reduce congestion and improve road safety, approval has been accorded for the construction of 11 bypasses costing Rs 1,007.19

crore. Besides the Tohana bypass work on which has been initiated, the government will undertake construction of Uchana and Bahadurgarh bypasses.

Besides, the Central Government has allocated 2,500 kms of roads for widening and strengthening to Haryana under phase III of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Under NABARD funded schemes, construction of 416 km roads has been completed and work is apace on 357 km roads.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Proposals for ring roads for Ambala and Bhiwani Towns and bypasses of Hisar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, and Jind towns have already been submitted to the Central Government. A new East-West Expressway connecting Panipat City-Safidon-Naguran-Uchana-Parbhawala-Bhuna-Ratia-Sardulgarh-Kalanwali-Mandi Dabwali has been proposed.

Two Greenfield Expressways - Delhi-Vadodra Expressway (Sohna to Rajasthan Border in Haryana State) and Ismailabad-Narnaul Trans Haryana Expressway are un-



Photograph By Vinay Malik

der construction.

RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

To augment rail infrastructure and enhance rail connectivity to un-served regions of the State, "Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor" is being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 5618 crore. This 122 km electrified double railway line will bypass Sohna-Manesar-Kharhoda-Delhi and connect Palwal to Haryana Kalan.

Work of a 5.5 km long elevated railway line in Kurukshetra city has been awarded. Project for an elevated railway track of 4.5 km in Kaithal city has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Railway for approval. Further, DPRs for the 61 km long new Karnal-Yamunanagar railway line and the 50 km long new Jind-Hansi railway line have been finalized and sent to the Ministry of Railways for approval.

The feasibility study for a new railway junction near Pandu Pindara by connecting all four railway lines of Jind city has been completed by HRIDC and DPR of the project amounting to Rs. 215.95 crores has also been prepared, Mr Manohar Lal added.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

Flattening the Covid Curve

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Unprecedented global crisis induced by the COVID-19 Pandemic cast its shadow on the Haryana budget as well as Chief Minister Manohar Lal announced in the Vidhan Sabha that "health of our people has been accorded top priority by the State Government budget with an allocation of Rs. 7,731 crores for 2021-22 financial year which marked a hike of 20.2 per cent over the 2020-21 outlay of Rs. 6,433 crores."

Giving details he said that the above-said Budget allocation included Rs. 4,606 crores for health and family welfare, Rs. 2,136 crores for medical education and research, Rs. 315 crores for Ayush, Rs. 238 crores for employees state insurance 36 health care, Rs. 42 crores for food and drugs administration and Rs. 394 crores for sports.

"In these challenging times and the government has ensured availability, accessibility and affordability of Healthcare services for all. Besides ensuring extensive testing throughout the state, that too at affordable prices, the State boosts of recovery rate of around 98 percent with a significantly low 1.11 per cent fatality rate due to Corona," said the Chief Minister.

Haryana has been passing through torrid times in the face of the onslaught of Covid-19 something which is not just unprecedented but has been a daunting task to deal with. As people's life was disrupted amid fear and uncertainty Haryana took the bull by horns and has largely kept the pandemic in control with recovery rates hovering around 98-99 per cent. As the threat still looms large Haryana has decided to take some major initiatives to combat the pandemic.

The chief minister said while last year the state had recruited 956 regular doctors and 206 AYUSH medical officers in order to strengthen infrastructure, during 2021-22 new posts of 350 medical officers and 60 dental hospitals will be created besides increasing the number of beds in hospitals by more than 1000.

The government has decided to set up medical colleges in Yamunanagar, Kaithal and Sirsa districts in addition to an oncology center will be set up at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College in Agroha.

While 1000 Ayush assistants and 22 Ayush coaches will be recruited, new ESI dispensaries to be opened in Kamal and Rohtak industrial areas, Taravadi (Kamal), Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Nuh (Mewat), Narayanagar (Ambala) and Charkhi Dadri.

Major initiatives

- 22 new posts of 350 medical officers and 60 dental hospitals will be created
- Number of beds in hospitals to be increased by more than 1000.
- Medical colleges to be set up in Yamunanagar, Kaithal and Sirsa districts
- An oncology center will be set up at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College in Agroha.

The government has also taken a decision to provide benefits of Ayushman Bharat Scheme to eight additional categories such as (i) beneficiaries of Comprehensive Cashless Health Insurance Scheme (ii) Families registered under Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (iii) Construction Workers Board (iv) Haryana Recognized media persons of (v) Nambardar (vi) Chaukidar, (vii) Vimukta Nomad caste (viii) soldiers of Azad Hind Fauj, families associated with

Hindi movement, families jailed during the Second World War and Emergency are included.

Giving details about how the state fought Covid-19 the chief minister said the State Government had constituted Haryana Corona Relief Fund with the objectives, inter-alia, to accept donations from public to provide immediate financial and medical assistance and other relief packages to persons adversely affected by COVID-19 Pandemic in the State. Besides this Haryana has also performed considerably well in containing the spread of coronavirus by providing efficient health service delivery to the infected people and speedy delivery of relief packages such as food, cash and other basic goods and services to the vulnerable sections of the society, he informed.

"To strengthen the Health Infrastructure of the State, the bed strength in various health institutions was increased by about 3000 in the last five years. Now to meet the growing demand for hospital beds, the government has decided to increase the bed capacity of all civil hospitals to 200 from their existing bed capacity," said the Chief Minister.

He said the government recruited 956 regular doctors and 206 Ayush medical officers. The

Chief Minister informed that extensive Sampling through RTPCR and Rapid Antigen Testing Kits are being done in all Districts of Haryana. More than 58 lakh samples have been collected so far. To ensure proper treatment of COVID Patients, we took the initiative and established Plasma banks at Faridabad, Gurugram, Panchkula, Rohtak and Kamal wherein 4856 number of Plasma Units have been collected from COVID 19 recovered patients till date and 3291 patients have been administered Plasma therapy treatment.

The Chief Minister informed that the State has been authorized to use two Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use such as Covishield of Serum Institute of India and Covaxin of Bharat Bio-tech and received 2,41,500 doses of Covishield and 20,000 doses of Covaxin in the first supply on January 13, 2021. State have sufficient cold chain space to store COVID-19 vaccines.

RS 9.10 CRORES FOR DCS

The Chief Minister informed that an amount of Rs. 9.10 crores has been sanctioned to various Deputy Commissioners of the State for taking appropriate measures for containment of COVID-19 pandemic at local level. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 131.85 crores has also been provided from the State Disaster Response Fund to the Departments of Medical Education and Research (Rs. 43.59 crores), Urban Local Bodies (Rs. 7.01 crores), Home (Rs. 4.29 crores) and Health and Family Welfare (Rs. 76.96 Crores) for addressing various issues that arose in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, he said.

During COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has provided financial assistance to 17 lakh families including Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana, BPL families, construction workers and workers in the unorganized sector. Under the operation 'Samvedna' 4.44 lakh migrant workers were sent to their native States through 100 special Shramik trains and 6,629 buses with expenditure Rs 8.21 crores.

DISTRESS RATION SCHEME

The Chief Minister said that Haryana invested in the implementation of 'Distress Ration Token Scheme' which was later adopted across the country under the AatmNirbhar Bharat initiative. It envisaged distributing 5 kg wheat and 1 kg pulse per family to persons having no ration cards and to financially distressed families. Under the scheme 5.63 lakh families were identified for distribution of free ration.

SINGLE EDUCATION SYSTEM, A PATH-BREAKING INITIATIVE

Under this educational system where a child can avail education from Nursery to Post Graduation in a single institution i.e. 'KG to PG'

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar, while presenting the 2021-22 budget in the Assembly, laid bare the educational map to help Haryana attain a distinct place in the country.

The chief minister announced an outlay of Rs. 18,410 crores for 2021-22 financial year marking an increase of 17.8 per cent over the last year's allocation that stood at Rs. 15,629 crores.

The outlay of Rs 18,410 crores included Rs. 9,014 crores for elementary education, Rs. 5,899 for secondary education, Rs. 2,793 crores for higher education and Rs. 705 crores for technical education, said the Chief Minister.

RS. 20 CRORE ALLOCATED

In a major initiative the Chief Minister underlined the need for an educational system where a child can avail education from Nursery to Post Graduation in a single institution i.e. 'KG to PG'.

An allocation of Rs 20 crores has been made for this path-breaking initiative which would be set up at Kurukshetra University and Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak this year.

"Such a system would have the benefit of improved access of vocational and higher education to students by providing all levels of education in a single institution, curtailment of dropout rate, providing an ecosystem for holistic learning and also facilitate employment linkages by focussing on higher education and vocational training," asserted the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said that the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic had altered the lives of students in a big way especially due to state-wide closure of schools. In this light, the focus of National Education Policy (NEP) to recognize and foster unique capabilities of each student for their holistic development by sensitising teachers and parents will not only enhance state's resilience in response to the Pandemic but will also foster an educational system with stimulating learning environments in academic and non-academic spheres.

EXEMPLARY INITIATIVES

The Chief Minister said that the Haryana Government had taken exemplary initiatives with the aim to

enhance conceptual understanding for students from classes 3-8 under the Saksham Haryana Programme. As a part of NEP, Haryana will expand its efforts towards the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission to provide early language and mathematical skills to students from classes 1 to 3, impacting 6 lakh students from 8,400 schools.

UPGRADING CLASSROOMS

The Chief Minister said that under NEP, the Haryana Government planned to upgrade classroom infrastructure through blended learning models to improve learning outcomes. A sum of Rs 700 crore will be allocated to promote technology-based learning in all government schools which will include provision of digital tablets, digital classrooms etc.

QUALITY EDUCATION

The Chief Minister said that with the aim to promote inclusivity, free education will be provided to students from all categories from classes 9th to 12th. A sum of Rs 192 crores will be allocated in ensuring quality education and opportunities to them. Special focus will be given to disadvantaged groups by creating Special Education Zones (SEZs) for targeted groups to improve the enrollment from these groups. A Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) of Rs. 114.52 crore will be created to provide higher financial assistance to girl students in these SEZs. The State will be upgrading Aarohi, Kasurba Gandhi and Mewat Model schools to the level of model Sanskriti School, he added.

A COLLEGE EVERY 20 KMS

The Chief Minister said that presently the State has 35 Universities which include one Central University, 10 State Universities and 24 Private Universities and 170 Government Colleges. The State Government has a proactive policy of opening government colleges within a radius of 20 km, especially for girls.

"There is a need to consolidate the already created infrastructure with a focus on providing quality based relevant higher education to the youth and their placement. At the same time, we are giving push to startups among students to make them job providers and self-sustainable in place of job seekers," he said.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

New initiatives in farming, outlay up 20 per cent

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

We are indebted to our farmers, whose toil and hard work has made Haryana the food bowl of the country. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. We are committed to doubling farmer's income and ensuring his/her well-being," said Chief Minister Manohar Lal while presenting the annual 2021-22 budget in the Vidhan Sabha and announced a special campaign – "Har Khet Swasth Khet" to be launched to focus on soil health and facilitating cropping choices based on soil quality.

The chief minister announced that this novel programme, which involves collection and testing of soil samples of every acre, would be launched vigorously from April, 2021 covering the whole State in coming 3-4 years. This is an effort to provide an end to end solution to farming – from soil health, crop choices, inputs, processing and marketing, he said.

The chief minister announced in the House that with the view to realising the national goal of making agriculture futuristic and doubling the farmer's income, the 2021-22 budgetary allocation would be Rs. 6,110 crores which is 20.9 per cent higher than Rs 5,052 crores allocated last year.

It would include Rs. 2,998 crores for agriculture and farmers welfare, Rs. 489 crores for

horticulture, Rs. 1,225 for animal husbandry and dairying, Rs. 125 crores for fisheries and Rs. 1,274 crores for cooperation.

He said that farmers were being encouraged to sow crops based on the soil health. Details of crops owned will be provided by the registered farmers in the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal. 9.14 lakhs farmers have been registered on "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal.

The Chief Minister said that as many as 17 new Static Soil Testing Laboratories and 59 Mini-Soil Testing Laboratories are being established in Mandis/Government buildings to provide door-step soil testing services to farmers. The construction work of buildings for 14 new Soil Testing Laboratories has been completed and the work pertaining to the remaining Soil Testing Laboratories is under

progress, he added.

KISAN MITRA YOJANA

The Chief Minister said that the Government of Haryana was going to launch a new scheme, namely, Kisan Mitra Yojana. This Scheme will be one of the most significant initiatives of the Government of Haryana to ensure financial services to farmers to empower them, he said.

He informed that the main ob-

jective of e-MFFSS is to facilitate farmers through multiple services like cash withdrawal, cash deposit, balance enquiry, pin change, new pin generation, mini statement, cheque book request, Aadhaar number updation, loan request, mobile number updation and registration of problems and feedback etc. The scheme envisages installing 1000 farmer's ATMs in the State in partnership with banks.

ZERO BUDGET FARMING

The Chief Minister said that as part of the initiative to make agriculture viable, and provide fresh, unpolluted farm produce to consumers, our Government seeks to promote zero budget farming and organic/natural farming. It is targeted to cover an area of one lakh acres of cropped area under this initiative in the coming three years. He said that training will be provided to farmers in these techniques, and appropriate assistance will be provided to promote them. Testing and certification laboratories will be established to promote marketing of farm produce grown with these techniques.

AREA UNDER PADDY

The Chief Minister said that under the state Government's ambitious 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme which has been launched targeting crop diversification and economic use of ground water, a target has been set to reduce area under paddy cultivation by 2 lakh acres during 2021-22.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

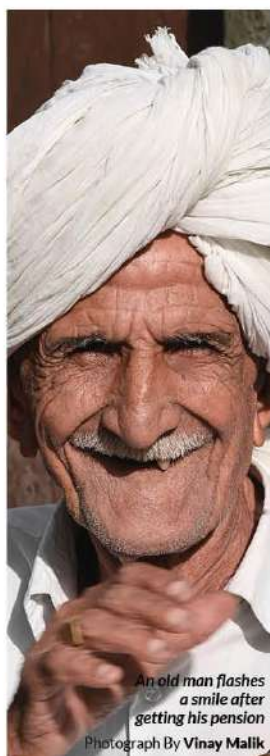
MASSIVE PUSH TO SOCIAL SECTOR

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

From increase in pension amount to reaching out to weaker sections of society with a bucketful of affirmative and enabling measures, Haryana's annual budget for 2021-22 is very much embedded in the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. The Rs 1,55,645 crore budget will build a resilient and resurgent Haryana on the foundation of social inclusion. From April 1, 2021, the Old Age Samman Allowance has been increased to Rs 2,500 per month from Rs 2,250 per month. Financial assistance to destitute children at Rs 1,350 per month, financial assistance to non-school going disabled children at Rs 1,650 per month is being disbursed.

Reiterating his government's commitment to uplift the poorest in the spirit of Antyodaya, Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, who also holds the Finance Ministry portfolio, while presenting the State Budget announced a new scheme 'Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Uthhan Abhiyan' which aims to draw verified data from the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) and identify the poorest one lakh families in the State. Under this Abhiyan, the government aims for economic upliftment of two lakh families during 2021-22.

A package of measures from education, skill development, wage employment, self employment and



An old man flashes a smile after getting his pension

Photograph By Vinay Malik

job creation will be adopted and tailored to each family to ensure their economic upliftment so as to reach a minimum economic threshold of Rs 1.80 lakh per annum. The Chief Minister said that once these one lakh families are successfully uplifted, then the government will identify the next lot of poorest one lakh families and work for their economic upliftment. "Through this Abhiyan our aim is that no family in the State lives below the poverty line by 2025," he said.

The Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Uthhan Abhiyan will be an umbrella mission encompassing all schemes of Government to identify the scheme or set of schemes to supplement the upliftment of each identified family. Each department of the government will prioritize schemes implemented by them for the upliftment of the identified poorest families. The government's strategy is to comprehensively cover these families at the lowest end of the socio economic ladder, and extend the coverage to the next set of one lakh families, and gradually expand coverage to all the vulnerable sections of the society.

An amount of Rs 10,798 crore has been allocated for successful implementation of these welfare schemes. The proposed outlay of Rs 10,798 crore includes Rs 524 crore for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Rs 7,828 crore for Social Justice and Empowerment, Rs 824 crore for Mukhya

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In order to achieve the goals of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, a number of initiatives have been implemented with the assistance of the Union Government such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Aapki Beti Hamari Beti, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyan, One Stop Centre for Women and State Resource Centre for Women.

Similarly, Haryana is all set to open 4000 play way schools, which will not only emphasize pre-school education but also strengthen the health, nutritional needs of children and augur overall development of a child in terms of inculcating moral values. In the first phase, 1,135 Anganwadi centres running from school premises or departmental buildings will be upgraded into play schools and made operational from March, 2021. In the second phase, 2,865 Anganwadi centres will be upgraded into play schools in 2021-22.

Around 500 crèches will also be made operational in two phases. In the first phase 182 crèches were sanctioned and 30 crèches already have been made operational with modern facilities in 2020-21. Remaining crèches will be started in 2021-22 by upgrading existing Anganwadi centres after assessing the footfall of working women in different districts. The state government has distributed free sanitary napkins under the Gender Sensitization Scheme to about 11 lakh females in the age group of 10 to 45 years with a cost of about Rs 13.64 crore.

Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (MMPSY) and Rs 1,621 crore for the Women and Child Development.

To encourage meritorious Scheduled Caste students, scholarship ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 12,000 per annum is being provided under Dr Ambedkar Mediavi Chhatra Yojana in Class XI, first year of graduation and first year of Post-Graduation courses. Scholarship is also provided to Backward Classes students on the basis of their percentage score

in Class X. Free coaching is being provided to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes to prepare them for various competitive and entrance examinations such as Civil Services examinations, banking, railway, and so on under 'Financial assistance for higher competitive entrance examination to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes candidates' through reputed institutions with income up to Rs 2.5 lakh per annum.

MSP will continue; mandi system to be beefed up

CM assures House while replying to the debate on no-trust motion

By PARVEEN K MODI

The outcome of the voting on the no-trust motion moved by the Congress against the BJP-JJP alliance government in the Haryana Assembly—it was defeated by 55 votes against and 32 in favour after a six-hour marathon debate—did not swerve a tad from the anticipated. As things turned out, the no-trust motion virtually turned into a trust motion, offering legislator after legislator an opportunity to reiterate faith in the government of the day, recalling and recounting what all it had done for the people of the state.

His confidence bolstered by the numbers stacked on his side and his dignity not cluttered with pretensions, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, was at his best giving vent to his steely resolve to stick to the path of development and people's welfare. Data on his tips, he mixed eloquent prose with poetry to press home the point and make his opponents realize the futility of bringing a no-trust motion. "Bring it every six months", he quipped sarcastically.

He was replying to the debate just before voting on the no-confidence motion. The Opposition has no substantial grounds for this motion and is relying on political gimmicks. In the name of farmer protest, it is trying to mislead the farmers. Taking a jibe at the Opposition in a poet-

Ten crops are being procured by the Haryana Government at MSP which is much more than the number of crops being procured by the neighboring states.

ic way he said, 'Aag lagane walo ko nahi hai khabar, Rukh hawa ka badala toh khak vo bhii ho jayenge'. Instead of provoking the agitation, the opposition should try to make efforts to persuade the farmers to end their agitation, he said.

Scotching rumours, allaying anxieties of the agitating farmers, and laying the opposition fears to rest, the Chief Minister held out the assurance that his government would continue to procure crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the mandi system will not only stay but will also be further strengthened, and that the three new agricultural laws of the Central Government were optional, not mandatory.

Ten crops are being procured by the Haryana Government at MSP which is much more than the number of crops being procured by the neighboring states. Last year, more than 50 per cent crop payment was directly made into the bank accounts of the farmers. This year, it has been decided to raise it to 100 per cent, Mr Manohar Lal added.

Listing the pro-farmer initiatives taken by his government, the Chief Minister said that 19 types of vegetables and fruits had been brought under the ambit of the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana. Against the target of setting up 1,000 FPOs, 486 FPOs have already been formed. Apart from this, 1.07 lakh farmers have been registered under the Pashudhan Credit Card Scheme started on the lines of Kisan Credit Card Scheme.

Mr. Manohar Lal said farmers are our brothers irrespective of the state they belong to and no force could be used against them in any circumstances. It is my moral responsibility to take care of 2.8 crore people of the state, he added.

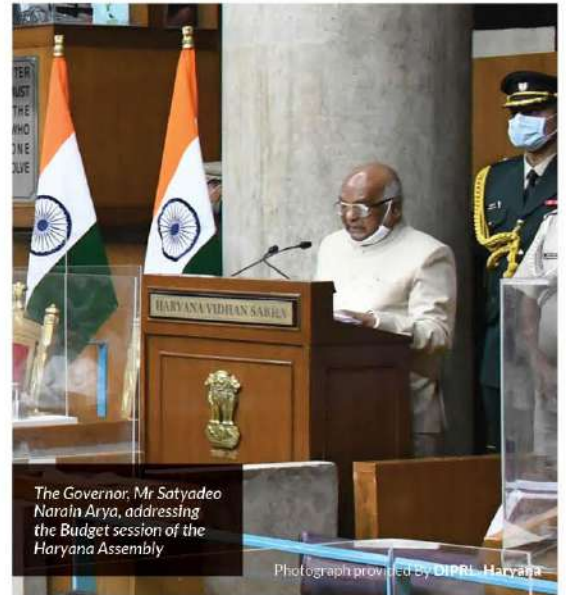
"From the very first day of our government, we have taken care of the interests of every section of the society, be it farmers, employees, youth, traders or labourers, and have taken a number of welfare decisions for them. In first two years, I visited all the 90 Assembly constituencies in the state and announced a number of developmental projects for every region without any discrimination," the Chief Minister said.

Referring to the data given by a private institute CMI on the unemployment rate in Haryana, the Chief Minister told the members that the CMI had reported 23.7 per cent unemployment rate in Haryana for 2020 whereas, it was only 7 per cent according to the survey conducted by the National Statistical Organization.



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, replying to the debate on the no-trust motion

Photograph provided By DIPRL, Haryana



The Governor, Mr Satyadeo Narain Arya, addressing the Budget session of the Haryana Assembly

Photograph provided By DIPRL, Haryana

Haryana committed to making farming profitable: Governor

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

The Haryana Government has taken several initiatives to double the farmers' income, is working assiduously to translate its vision of making agriculture profitable, vigorously pursuing the SYL Canal matter in the Supreme Court, and has rolled out conscious and concrete measures to revive the economy of the state which has begun to emerge from the shadows of the Corona epidemic.

This, more or less, squeezes the Address delivered by the Haryana Governor, Mr Satyadeo Narain Arya, on the opening day of the Budget session of the Haryana Assembly. Going beyond listing the achievements of his government, unrolling the roadmap for the future, and unfolding its vision, he lauded it for the measures taken to rein in the rampaging Covid monster, and making Haryana the first state to implement Atam Nirbhar Bharat, a ration token scheme launched during the Covid-induced lockdown for the economically distressed people.

Listing the number of steps taken to double farmers' income, he said these included procurement of nine crops from the state budget at MSP, top-up subsidy under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, highest claim to premium ratio (greater than 1) under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and the highest price of Rs 350 per quintal paid to the sugarcane growers. A record Rs 17,000 crore has been directly transferred into the bank accounts of about 9.5 lakh farmers whose crops were procured.

Putting the government on the back for efficiently tackling Covid-19, the Governor said under Operation Samvedna, it had sent 4,44,422 migrant workers to their home states through 100 special trains and 6,629 buses, incurring an expenditure of Rs 8.21 crore. He applauded the Corona warriors who led the fight against the deadly virus.

Haryana is the first state to have implemented Atam Nirbhar Bharat, a scheme launched during the lock-

Outlining the steps taken by the state government to revive the economy, he said these had yielded results and the state had witnessed robust growth in the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2020-21

down for the distressed not covered under any PDS scheme. Persons who had no ration card were provided 5 kg wheat per person and 1 Kg dal per family per month during May and June 2020.

Outlining the steps taken by the state government to revive the economy, he said these had yielded results and the state had witnessed robust growth in the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2020-21. Collections from GST, VAT and Excise, taken together aggregated Rs. 36,594.64 crore between April 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021 against Rs 33,970.68 crore, which is 7.72 per cent higher than the corresponding period last year.

The state government is developing Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMMLH) in Narnaul, Mahendragarh, on 886 acres in collaboration with Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project at the cost of USD 700 million, asserted Mr Arya.

Referring to the recently enacted Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, the Governor said his government was committed to providing 75 per cent reservation to the local candidates of Haryana.

The Haryana Enterprise and Employment Policy, 2020 seeks to posit Haryana as a favoured investment destination, achieve regional development, export diversification and augment livelihood opportunities. The objective is to attract investments of Rs.1 lakh crore and generate 5 lakh jobs in the state.

In order to strengthen power transmission, capital investment of Rs. 3023 crore has been planned and about 2.15 lakh smart meters have been installed across the state, Mr Arya added.



Happy farmers flaunt the victory sign

PHOTOGRAPH BY VINAY MALIK

CAMPUS CORNER

MoU signed to facilitate digitalisation

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

The Registrar of Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Dr. Rakesh Wadiwa, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Ajmer Singh Malik, Vice-Chancellor, CDLU, said the MoU would help make the university self-reliant, usher in a new era of digitalization and exchange of electronic resources and software, and promote digitalization.

He disclosed that a new build-

ing with capacity to host 300 examinees was being constructed to conduct computer-based examinations so that the students of Sirsa district do not have to travel to different cities to appear in competitive exams.

The Vice-Chancellor of GJUS&T, Prof Tankeshwar Kumar, said the software provided by the university would be of great help for Ph.D. scholars and IT professionals with regard to online applications and admission process. IT professionals of both universities will work hand in hand for updating the software to make them more qualitative and user-friendly, he added.



SUSV signs MoU with NOCN

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

In order to strengthen international linkages, Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Gurugram, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UK Government's Department of International Development through "National Open College Network" (NOCN).

The Haryana Governor, Mr. Satyadeo Narain Arya, said the university had built strong and effective linkages with various industries to promote skill development. Moreover 27 new programmes have been started, he added.

WINDOW ON SPORTS

Rs 394 cr outlay for sports

By SHAGUN KAPOOR

With an aim to develop sports infrastructure, train players of the state, create employment opportunities for sportspersons and implement various youth development programs, Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal has proposed to allocate Rs 7,731 crore in the Budget Estimates of 2021-22, out of which Rs 394 crore has been allocated for sports.

The Chief Minister further announced that in order to provide latest training facilities and sports equipment to the players selected for the Olympic Games, a sum of Rs 5 lakh has been given as an advance cash award to each of them. Moreover, the state has also enhanced diet money for the players from Rs 150 to Rs 250 per day, he added.

It is worth mentioning that 'Khelo India Youth Games-2021' will be hosted by Haryana wherein 25 sports events including five indigenous games and more than 10,000 sportspersons and officials are expected to participate from all over India. Apart from this, an international level swimming pool is under construction at War Heroes Memorial Stadium, Ambala Cantt; and hockey, football, basketball and volleyball grounds are proposed to be constructed at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex, Panchkula in view of the coming Khelo India Youth Games-2021.

The Chief Minister said that around 297 sports nurseries are already running in government and private schools of the state. The process of establishing four Rehabilitation Centres at Rohtak, Gurugram, Kamal and Hisar has been proposed by the governments which will be equipped with the latest world class sports-medicine apparatus along with well qualified staff, psychologists and physiotherapists, he added.



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