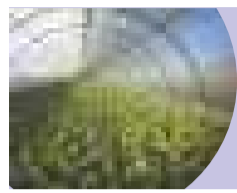


Haryana Review

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



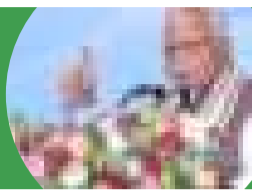
Area under horti to be doubled by 2030

▶▶ P6



All-out war on drugs

▶▶ P7



Now, women SHGs to collect water charges

By Parveen K Modi

Keeping pace with the changing times, Haryana is well on the way to becoming a gender-just society.

Soon, women will not only serve as service providers collecting water charges but will also render other related services in the rural areas of the state.

Aggressively pursuing its agenda to ensure social and economic empowerment of women, and keen on making their self-help groups (SHGs) financially stable and functionally strong, the Manohar Lal Government has decided to come out with an innovative scheme to engage members of such groups as service providers in the Rural Water Supply Scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

“It is another big and bold step in the direction of women’s empowerment. The sinews of the scheme have been as stitched as to serve three avowed objectives: giving an opportunity to SHG members to earn more money, offering gram panchayats another source to pocket revenue from the residents, and help in promoting water conservation”, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal said.

Billing for water charges will now be carried out by the Village

“It is another big and bold step in the direction of women’s empowerment. The sinews of the scheme have been as stitched as to serve three avowed objectives: giving an opportunity to SHG members to earn more money, offering gram panchayats another source to pocket revenue from the residents, and help in promoting water conservation.”

Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC-GP) which will engage women members of SHGs for sending online bills on BISWAS (PHED Portal).

The distribution and collection of water charges shall be carried out by them as per guidelines of the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) from time to time.

Services charges

Under the scheme, Gram Panchayat will pay the services charges to the SHGs from the amount received on account of the collection of water charges and allowance from the government for maintenance etc.

Cluster Level Federation (CLF) will be engaged as a service provider to carry out various IEC activ-

ities under JJM at the district level. One or two SHG women-members will be engaged at the village level.

They will work as resource persons and perform selected activities in coordination with the Village Water Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Water and Sanitation Support Organization (WSSO) and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on July 4, 2023 approved a proposal to engage women’s SHGs for collection of water charges and other related services in the rural areas and vest Gram Panchayats with powers of planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of the water supply scheme.

The scheme has been prepared in

close coordination with the Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission (HSRLM) regarding the engagement of members of SHGs as service providers for carrying out field-level selected activities in coordination with PHED.

Flagship scheme

The HSRLM is a flagship scheme of the Government of India to eradicate poverty among the rural women. So far, Mission has mobilized 5,85,146 households in 57,030 SHGs covering 143 blocks of all the 22 districts of Haryana.

The HSRLM is making continuous and sustained efforts to provide livelihood activities to poor SHG women with an aim to improve their income level.

SHGs in Haryana read like a suc-

CM bats for UCC

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, agrees with the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as it is necessary to bring about uniformity and harmony in the country. He batted for the UCC while interacting with media persons soon after presiding over a meeting of the Cabinet.

cess story. The consistent backing and financial muscle lent to them by the state government since 2014 has resulted in their ranks soaring from 812 in 2014 to more than 57,000 in just eight-and-a-half years.

Only recently, the Chief Minister had announced the decision to allot 33 percent of all future ration depots to women in the state. SHGs applying for ration depot will be given priority.

Also, an SHG applying for a contract for fish farming in panchayat land or pond will get a 10 percent discount on the auction amount.

Besides, even if the family income of a member of SHG exceeds Rs 1.8 lakh, its ration and Ayushman Card will not be quashed for one year.

Other decisions on PP 2,3



Neeraj Chopra tops again

The Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra obtained the top spot in the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 with a best throw of 87.66 metres.

With his win in Lausanne he is on top of the Diamond League list with 16 points and sitting comfortably to qualify for the 2023 Finals. It was his fourth Diamond League win in as many events.

CM leads rescue operation as heavy rains lash state

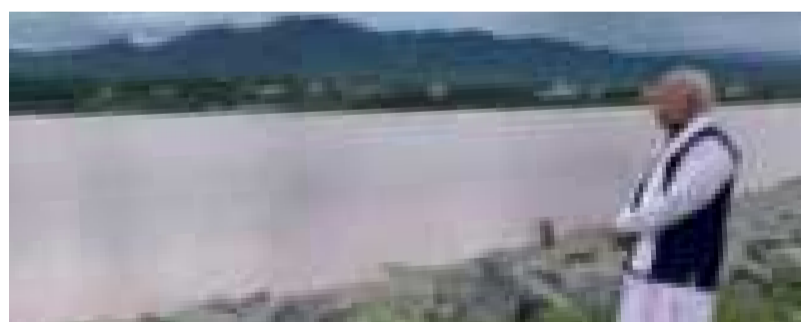
NDRF, SDRF teams swing into action

By Ajay Bhardwaj

In view of incessant heavy rainfall in the state Chief Minister Manohar Lal suspended all his engagements and undertook to personally monitor minute-to-minute situation.

The Chief Minister held a series of emergency meetings with senior administrative secretaries and deputy commissioners and directed the teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to swing into rescue operations in the flood-hit areas. Senior Administrative Secretaries have been asked to issue an advisory to the general public so as to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience.

The Army has been put on stand-by so that their help could be taken in case of any emergency situation. Adequate arrangements of food and health facilities have been made by the administration for the



people affected by the rains even as people can contact the flood helpline numbers 1070, 1077, 112, 0172-2545938.

Close coordination

Administrative secretaries of all departments have been directed to work in close coordination, so that the safety of life and property could be ensured. Besides directing all the civil and police officers to remain alert, he asked them to make all necessary arrangements so that timely assistance could be provided in any emergent situation.

As the water level of Yamuna has increased due to the release of three lakh cusecs of water from the

Hathnikund barrage in the Yamuna river, the state government has issued an alert in many villages of Sonapat and Panipat along the Yamuna River to stay in a safe place

Similarly, the water level of Ghaggar has also crossed the danger mark, so the government has been closely monitoring the situation and has evacuated people in some areas.

Due to the increase in the water level of the Tangri River in Ambala, there have been cases of erosion in many places. The Chief Minister also gave special directions to the Deputy Commissioners of Ambala, Panchkula, and Yamunanagar districts that they should ensure that no one goes near the rivers.

June logs robust 19 pc growth in GST collection

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

Haryana continues to show robustness in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection thanks to the continued vibrancy and resilience in the state economy under the stellar leadership, vision and guidance of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

In June, 2023, Haryana registered a growth of 19 percent in GST mop-up as compared to the collection made in the corresponding month last year.

According to the Union Ministry of Finance, Haryana had collected Rs 6,713.89 crore as GST revenue in June, 2022, which went up to Rs 7,988.18 crore in June, 2023, registering a growth of 19 per cent as compared to 10 per cent in Delhi, 15 per cent in Rajasthan and 17 per cent in Punjab.

It is worth mentioning that revenue collection is of utmost importance for any government or organization.



Income limit for widow pension up

Haryana Review Bureau

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal recently accorded approval to changes in income criteria of Widow & Destitute Women Pension Scheme and conversion of the beneficiaries who have attained the age of 60 years or above, to Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme.

At present, the beneficiary woman under the "The Haryana Pension to Widows and Destitute Women Scheme" can avail the benefit till the date of her death.

As per the new changes, the women after attaining the age of 60 will get the benefits under Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, subject to the eligibility.

The eligibility conditions for Women pension age include more than 18 years' domicile of Haryana, residing in Haryana for the last 15 years at the time of submission of application and income from all

sources is below Rs. 3, 00,000 per annum.

New HMSE rules

The Haryana Cabinet has accorded approval regarding the Haryana Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (Amendment) Rules, 2023 whereby the District Level Councils will save the time and cost of the industrialists of the particular district to resolve the issue of delayed payments.

It is also apprised that most of the common and important services are being rendered in the DC/ADC offices and the delayed payment disputes being the important issue, may be resolved at the District level where the common citizen have ease of access.

Accordingly, draft rules 'Haryana Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (Amendment) Rules, 2023' has been formulated to include the Composition etc. of District Facilitation Councils

in the State of Haryana.

The District Council shall consist of following members, Additional Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District will be Chairperson, an officer from the Administration of Justice Department, Haryana, not below the rank of Assistant District Attorney posted in the concerned District and an officer not below the rank of Accounts Officer posted in the Deputy Commissioner Office will be Members of the council.

Rules amended

The Haryana Cabinet has granted approval for the amendment in the Haryana Panchayati Raj Rules of 1995. According to the amendment, the rules shall henceforth be referred to as the Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Rules of 2023.

The existing rules have been amended to include rule 28A, titled "Application of Gram Fund, Samiti Fund, and Zila Parishad Fund. Under sections 21, 75, 100, 137, 146,

and 209."

This rule states that a Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, or Zila Parishad is authorized to utilize its funds for the performance of functions and duties assigned to it by or under the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act.

However, it is mandatory that any grant-in-aid provided by the State Government to the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, or Zila Parishad must be used exclusively for the specific purpose if so assigned by the State Government.

Backward Classes Act

The Haryana cabinet has accorded approval to a proposal regarding the amendment in the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in educational institutions act) Act 2016. The Union Government had amended Scheduled Castes order, 1950 (vide notification on May 9, 2016) to include 7 castes of Haryana

in the list of scheduled castes pertaining to state of Haryana i.e., Aheria, Aheri, Heri, Hari, Thori, Turi and Rai Sikh.

Since these castes were also listed in Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in educational institutions act) Act 2016 in BC Block A category, therefore these 7 castes are being deleted from BC A list in schedule of Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in educational institutions act) Act 2016. Also, the caste Jangam-Jogi (listed at serial No. 31 in BC Block A list) is being deleted from the said Act since Jogi and Jangam are separate castes, Jogi caste shall figure in serial No 31 while Jangam caste shall be added by way of new entry at serial No.72 in the BC Block A list of the schedule of the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in educational institutions act) Act 2016.

Freight subsidy for MSME exporters

Haryana Review Bureau

The Haryana Cabinet has accorded approval to the amendments in Freight Assistance Scheme notified under the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy (HEEP)-2020.

Various industrial associations and exporters from the state had requested the state government to revise the scheme for all MSMEs and also to review block-wise capping for motivating exporters.

As per the new amendments, freight subsidy of Rs 25 lakh will be provided to defray the transportation cost from premises of the unit to the seaport/air cargo/international borders, including other non-fiscal incentives, to make the exporting of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) competitive in the global market.

The freight assistance to the

extent of 1 percent of free on board (FOB) value or actual freight excluding government fee and taxes on transportation of goods from place of manufacture to the seaport/air cargo/by road up to international border, whichever is less based on the level of ZED certification, will be ensured.

For Thrust Sectors (as notified under HEEP), a maximum of up to Rs 25 lakh subsidy will be ensured to the manufacturer exporter located in 'C' and 'D' category Blocks and Rs. 15 Lakhs to manufacturer exporter located in 'A' and 'B' category blocks.

For all other eligible manufacturer exporting units (non-thrust sector), a maximum of up to Rs. 20 lakh to the manufacturer exporter located in 'C' and 'D' category Blocks and Rs. 10 lakhs to the manufacturer exporter located in 'A' and 'B' category blocks.

Draft SOPs for police awards okayed

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal here on July 4 approved the draft of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for three State Police Awards.

Earlier, the Council of Ministers had approved the three State Police Awards-Chief Minister's Medal for Bravery, Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, and DGP's Uttam Seva Medal to recognize and honour outstanding detection, investigation, bravery and outstanding performance of administrative duties by the Haryana Police personnel.

As per the SOPs, the awardees of the 'Chief Minister Medal for Bravery' and the 'Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' will get a one-time cash reward of Rs.2,00,000 and Rs 1,00,000 respectively.

Besides this, the officers, and officials will also get a certificate or scroll signed by the Chief Minister and the Home Minister respectively.

As per the SOPs, they will get a medal along with a ribbon display

above the left pocket of the uniform, six months extension in service after retirement for Group-B and C for police personnel, applicable only in case they are not availing any other extension in service and the name of medal awardees shall be published in the Gazette of Haryana and the register of such names will be kept in the Home Department, Haryana.

The awardees of the DGP's Uttam Seva Medal will get a one-time cash reward of Rs 50,000 along with a certificate or scroll signed by the Director General of Police, Haryana and a ribbon display above the left pocket of the uniform. Further, the name of medal awardees shall be maintained in a register at Police Headquarters, Haryana.

The number of medals will be one to 10 in all three categories of awards. Extension in service will be withdrawn in case the medal is withdrawn as provided in SOPs. However, cash rewards will not be withdrawn in such cases.

Nod to formulation of rules for HSGMC wards, elections

The Cabinet also accorded approval to a proposal regarding the formulation of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee

(Delimitation of Wards and Elections), Rules, 2023. The tenure of the said ad-hoc committee constituted to manage and supervise the affairs of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee is going to expire after 18 months.

It is, accordingly, necessary to hold elections of Gurdwara in Haryana to elect members of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and for that purpose, ibid Rules are required to be enacted. As the requisite rules, stipulated under Section 52 of the Act for conducting the gurdwara elections in Haryana were not formulated so as to elect the members from various wards.

Amendment in Haryana Logistics, Warehousing and Retail Policy 2019

The Cabinet also approved amendments in Haryana Logistics, Warehousing and Retail Policy 2019. The need of the amendment arises due to different eligibility conditions mentioned for setting up ICD, warehouse, cold storage and logistic park, etc., in Haryana Logistics, Warehousing and Retail Policy 2019 and Town and Country Planning Department policy.

Taking environment battle to districts

District Environment Plans drawn to identify challenges and find ways to meet them

By Parveen K Modi

Keen on ensuring deeper penetration and finding virtue in verticality, Haryana has taken the battle to protect the environment to the districts. District Environment Plans (DEPs) have been mapped to identify the challenges at the local level, and suggest ways to meet them.

In deference to the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), all deputy commissioners have been sensitized to prepare district environment plans.

These comprehensive and well thought-through plans encompass such thematic areas as solid waste management, air quality, industrial waste water treatment, water quality, mining activity and noise pollution.

Environment assessment

A cerebral component of any DEP includes an environmental assessment aimed at identifying key challenges specific to the district, and assessing potential impacts resulting from developmental activities.

This assessment lays the foundation for setting goals and objectives seeking to address identified district-wise environmental issues.

Uploaded on the Environment Department's website, these plans will not only play the pivot in ad-



ressing environmental challenges but will also ensure compliance with environmental norms and help in contributing to sustainable development and progress of the state.

Way has been found to fund the DEPs. With a view to ensuring efficient utilization of the environment compensation funds collected from the violating units, a high-powered committee has been constituted to undertake environment restoration activities as outlined in these plans.

This elaborate scheme to take the battle to protect the environment to the districts was outlined by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Sanjeev Kaushal, at a one-day training programme focusing on implementation of district environment plans held at the Haryana Institute of Public Administration in Gurugram.

Uploaded on the Environment Department's website, the District Environment Plans will not only play the pivot in addressing the environmental challenges but will also ensure compliance with environmental norms and help in contributing to sustainable development and progress of the state.

The state government is taking significant strides towards ensuring scientific handling and disposal of municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, biomedical waste, and enforcing a ban on single-use plastics, he said.

While expressing the confidence in the dedication and com-

mitment of all deputy commissioners and senior district-level officers attending the programme, he encouraged the officers to approach it with utmost seriousness, as the lectures and sessions covering various environment-related topics will equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively implement the activities identified in the district environment plan.

Mr Kaushal asked the DCs to share their best practices, seek clarifications on any doubts, and provide valuable suggestions at the technical sessions.

The experts interacted with the officers to address their queries and enhance their understanding. "By implementing these plans and working collaboratively, we can create a cleaner, greener, and healthier fu-

ture for our state," Mr Kaushal added.

While inaugurating the training programme, Mr Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Chairman of the National Green Tribunal, highlighted the significance of the DEP as a strategic document designed to address environmental issues and promote sustainable development and emphasized the role of officers in integrating environmental considerations into various developmental activities at the district level.

Participatory approach

The DEPs follow a participatory approach, fostering collaboration among government agencies, local authorities, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and community representatives.

These adhere to national and state-level environmental policies and guidelines, ensuring alignment with broader environmental objectives.

Furthermore, the DEPs outline specific action plans aimed at achieving established goals and objectives.

These action plans encompass measures for pollution control, waste management, conservation of natural resources, promotion of renewable energy, and environmental education and awareness. added.

Cabinet decisions

Pension for unwed, widowers

Haryana Review Bureau

The Manohar Lal government has made sure that welfare schemes touched all sections of the needy people and their benefits reach the grassroot level.

Extending a special assistance to the aged unmarried men and women in the age group of 45 to 60, Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal announced to give a monthly pension of Rs. 2750 provided the beneficiary has annual income of less than Rs. 1.80 lakh.

Under this scheme, the second category of beneficiaries would be widowers in the age group of 40-60 years who have an annual income limit of Rs. 3 lakh. All such people will also get the same pension benefits."This pension scheme will benefit around 71,000 people and an amount of Rs. 240 crore annually will be spent for giving these benefits," said the chief minister.

2000 colonies to be regularised

The Chief Minister announced that a massive campaign is being run by the Urban Local Bodies and Town Country Planning Department for regularizing the irregular colonies across the State. "Amendments are required to be made in the laws and policies for regularizing these irregular colonies. The process of regularising 2000 such colonies is in progress," he said.

In another unique initiative the Haryana government has been providing financial assistance in case of death or disability of a member of the families having annual income up to Rs 1.80 lakh. The chief minister said that so

far 227 beneficiaries have been provided assistance under DAYALU Yojana while data of 600 persons is in the process of verification.

He said that in this scheme there is a provision to provide financial assistance ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh according to different age groups. The assistance of Rs.1 lakh to those in the age group of 6 to upto the age of 12 years, Rs. 2 lakh above the age of 12 years upto the age of 18 years, Rs. 3 lakh for age above 18 years upto 25 years, Rs. 5 lakh for age over 25 years upto 45 years and Rs. 3 lakh for the age of above 45 years upto the age of 60 years.

Rates of affordable houses revised

The Haryana Cabinet has approved an amendment in the Affordable Housing Policy-2013 following which the allotment rates for the apartment units under AGH projects across the State of Haryana has been increased on an average by 20 percent from previous rates.

Accordingly, the rates prescribed for the Hyper and High Potential zone (Gurugram, Faridabad, Panchkula, Pinjore-Kalka) have been increased by Rs.800 per sq. feet on carpet area on the previous rate i.e. Rs.4200.

For other High and Medium Potential Towns, it is proposed that Rs.700 Sq. ft. on carpet area respectively may be increased due to moderate demand in order to give further boost to the colonizers to come up with the new projects. On the same, analogy for Low Potential Towns, it is proposed that Rs.600 per Sq. ft. on carpet area has been increased.

No litigation policy for IMT Manesar gets nod

Haryana Review Bureau

Scheme benefits

Fulfilling the assurance given by Chief Minister Sh. Manohar Lal on the floor of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha on August 9, 2022, the Cabinet has approved No Litigation Policy-2023 for land acquired for Industrial Model Township in the revenue estate of villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sehrawan of Tehsil Manesar, District Gurugram.

The Policy aims to fast track development and make land owners partners in the development process while ensuring that the farmers get a fair return. The landowners who do not opt under the No Litigation Policy 2023 will be eligible for benefits under the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Land Owners and Land Acquisition Oustees policy (R&R). The State Government had notified land measuring approx. 1810 acres for the purpose .

Policy applicability

The benefits of this policy shall be applicable to the landowners whose land had been notified for compulsory acquisition under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, on January 10, 2011 in respect of whose land the award of compensation under Section 9 of the Act was announced vide Award No. 1,2 and 3 dated August 16, 2022 for villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sehrawan respectively.

The No Litigation Policy of 2023 (NLP-2023) allows entitlement of 1000 sq mtrs developed land/plots against one acre land on prorata basis. The farmers/ land owners will have the right to opt for the scheme within a period of 6 months from its notification and launch of the portal.

To assure instant benefit to the landowners, HSIIDC will issue Land Entitlement Certificate on the allotment share of land owners within a period of 3 months from the closure of the scheme.

The land owners or holders of the land entitlement certificates shall have the freedom to trade, buy or sell the Land Entitlement Certificates. This implies that the land owner can monetize the Certificate in the open market or sell back to the HSIIDC. This Certificate can be transferred or mortgaged with any bank or financial institution. Developed plots shall be offered by HSIIDC for allotment with possession to holders of land entitlement certificate, after the basic infrastructure facilities are made available in respect of the site to be allotted. In accordance with the land entitlement certificate, the policy assures the allotment of plot for either use i.e Industrial and Residential. The land owners shall be eligible to exercise the option to take developed residential or developed industrial plots equivalent to 1000 Sq.mtrs for every one acre land acquired.

From health hazard

Inching closer to zero burning, Manohar Lal Govt tak

By Parveen K Modi

Converting adversity into an opportunity and creating another basket for the farmers to earn from, the Manohar Lal Government has taken a series of proactive measures to hit the zero-straw-burning goal and mitigate the effects of what has come to be known as a serious environmental-cum-health hazard.

While enabling the farmers to maximize their income, these consciously calibrated initiatives form a part of a well thought-through multi-pronged strategy. A visceral component of the strategy involves converting straw into biofuel to create a perennial source of income for the farmers.

In what may ring music in the ears of farmers, target has been set to utilize 13,54,850 metric tons of paddy straw in industrial units across Haryana. (See Chart 1)

Besides, the New and Renewable Energy Department has identified and formed clusters of villages producing bio-mass in the vicinity of various industries in consultation with the Agriculture & Farmer Welfare Department.

Straw is used for producing commercial ethanol and biogas. While considerable research has also done to produce biobutanol, biodiesel and biochemicals from this raw material. more research work is being undertaken to do so on a commercial scale.

Provision has also been made for the purchase of straw by gaushalas. For bringing the refuse to gaushalas, transportation charges @ Rs 500 per acre subject to a maximum of Rs 15,000 is paid to the farmers for taking the straw to gaushalas.

Taking first things first, the strategy seeks to attack the very genesis of the problem by reducing the

Strategic plan to Achieve zero burning

State Government declared Common Determined Rate for Paddy Straw @Rs 2500/MT and additional Rs 500/MT for moisture <20%,
Notified on : 13.03.2023.

Continuation of Scheme for Rs. 1000 per Acre In-situ/Ex situ, Rs 7000/Acre MPMV and Rs 4000/Acre DSR incentives.

Monitoring of Active Fire Location-(AFL) by ICAR/ HARSAC.

Strategy formulated to achieve Zero Burning Events for kharif 2023 by creating preventive awareness through IEC activities.



generation of paddy straw in Kharif -2023 by incentivizing diversification. (See Chart 2)

It also aims at promotion of farm mechanization for both in-situ and ex-situ management of the residue by the farmers.(See Action Plan 2023-24).

The state government is providing financial support to farmers, including Rs 1,000 per acre for in-situ/ex-situ techniques, Rs 7,000 per acre under the Mera Pani Meri Virasat Scheme, and Rs 4,000 per acre for DSR technique in paddy cultivation.

DSR is a crop establishment system wherein rice seeds are sown directly in the field, as opposed to the traditional method of growing seedlings in a nursery and then transplanting the saplings into flooded fields. It helps in considerably reducing the consumption of water.

Satellite data

Based on satellite data for Kharif 2022 hot spot villages and districts have been identified. Besides, district-wise red (147) and yellow zone villages (582) too have been mapped. Topping the chart is Kaithal with 36 and 107 while Bhiwani is at the bottom with 0 and 1.

Villages have also been divided into Red and Yellow categories from the standpoint of number of cases of burning of paddy straw. Such panchayats as help in bringing the burning of straw to zero are rewarded.

Village panchayats have been divided into two categories for providing incentives to ensure zero burning of paddy straw. While a Red Zone panchayat will receive Rs 1 lakh for achieving the target of zero burning, Yellow Panchayat

will get Rs 50,000. (See Charts 3&4)

An important part of the strategy revolves around a state-wide campaign to create awareness among the farmers about the serious hazard straw poses to people's health.

The measures designed to achieve the goal of zero farm fires in the state include a common determined rate (CDR) of Rs 2,500 per metric ton of paddy straw and an additional Rs 500 per metric ton for moisture content below 20 percent. All these underscore the state government's commitment to promote sustainable agricultural practices and its dedication to mitigate a serious environmental challenge. Details of the steps taken:

Reducing generation

- Crop diversification-MPMV

CHART-1 Industrial consumption of paddy straw planned for 2023

No.	Project with location	Capacity in MW	Year	Quantity of paddy straw to be used during Kharif 2023 in MT
1.	Sri Jyoti Renewable Ltd., Dhana Narsan, Bhiwani		2014-15	25,000
2.	M/s Starwire India Vidyut Pvt. Ltd., Khurawta, Mahendergarh	9.9 MW	2013-14	20,000
3.	M/s. Gemco Energy Ltd., Village, Dhinod, Bhiwani	8.0 MW	2013-14	15,000
4.	M/s Sainsons Paper Industries Pvt., Ltd. Kurukshetra	3.0 MW 5.0MW	2009-10 2020-21	60,000 1,00,000
5.	M/s Hind Samachar Ltd, Village-Chhajipur, Tehsil-Pehowa, (Kurukshetra) (100% Paddy Straw based)	15.0 MW	2022	1,75,000
6.	M/s Sukhbir Agro Energy Ltd., Village Kangthali/siwan, (Kaithal) (100% Paddy Straw based)	15.0 MW	2022	1,75,000
7.	M/s Jind Bio-Energy LLP, Village Alewa, (Jind) (100% Paddy Straw based)	9.9 MW	2022	1,00,000
8.	M/s Fatehabad Bio-Energy LLP, Village-Bhuna, (Fatehabad) (100% Paddy Straw based)	9.9 MW	2022	1,00,000
9.	Other Industries Currently using paddy straw also as a fuel for running their boilers.			3,44,850
10.	Ajay Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd., Gharaunda, Karnal (CBG Plant)	12.5TPD		40,000
11.	Ethanol Plant at Panipat by IOCL	100 KLPD		2,00,000
	Grand Total			13,54,850

CHART-2 State action plan as per

No.	Parameter
1.	Area diversified to other crops (in ac)
2.	Total area under paddy cultivation (in ac)
3.	Area under Basmati variety (in ac)
4.	Area under Non-Basmati variety (in ac)
5.	Area under DSR method paddy sowing (in ac)
6.	Total quantity of straw generation (t)
7.	Qty for use of fodder (ton)
8.	Plan and Qty. for in-situ management
9.	Plan and Qty. for ex-situ management
10.	Biomass power generation
11.	Production of Bio-ethanol (ton)
12.	Compressed Biogas (ton)
13.	Fuel in Industrial Boilers (ton)
14.	Cofiring in PPS
15.	Fuel in WtE Plans and Brick Kiln
16.	Biocompost and other misc. Applica
17.	Total ex-situ utilisation
18.	Grand total utilisation of straw
	Total paddy burning incidents (as per I

to source of income

es proactive measures to convert straw into biofuel

- (1.25 lakh/ acre) Rs 87.5 crore; DSR (Rs 2lakh/acre) Rs 80 crore
- Adoption of short-duration varieties of paddy
- Discouraging long duration varieties-PUSA 44

Managing the refuse

In order to promote agricultural mechanization for in-situ management of crop residue in Punjab, Haryana, UP and NCT of Delhi, the Central Government has come out with an action plan 2023-24. The details are as follows:

Under the CRM scheme, the Central Government has allocated Rs 300 crore for FY 2023-24 for the states of Punjab, Haryana and HP. Online applications are invited till 23.07.2023.

The total number of in-situ machines is 7,572 and ex-situ machines 2,200 bailing units with 6,600 machines (Bailer, Hay Rake, Shrub Master).

Subsidy@50% is given to individual farmers while subsidy @80% is given for CHCs by FPOs, panchayats and societies.

This subsidy is on in-situ/ex-situ crop residue management machines: SMS, Happy Seeder, Paddy Straw Chopper/Shredder/Mulcher, Shrub Master/Rotary Slasher, Reversible Plough, Zero Till Seed cum Fertilizer Drill, Super Seeder, Baling Machine and Crop Reaper.

Special emphasis is laid on the bailing unit, super seeder, zero till seed-cum-fertilizer drill machine.

Pusa Bio Decomposer: The department has taken the initiative to target 2.5 lakh acre paddy area through Pusa Bio Decomposer. The state government will provide Pusa bio decomposer kits to farmers free of cost at a tentative expenditure of Rs 1.2 crore.

Creating awareness

Communication activities have



Farmers opting for DSR top target

Encouragingly, Haryana has surpassed the target of getting farmers switched to the direct seeding of rice (DSR) method from the traditional one of transplanting rice seedlings. As many as 44,309 farmers of the state had adopted DSR method on 3,11,365 acres up to June 21 against the target of 2,25,000, said the data of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department.

The data says eight districts have achieved the target, while two are close to achieving it. Farmers of Sirsa district have adopted the DSR method on 74,087.34 acres against the target of 25,000 acres, the data revealed.

been planned to create awareness among the farmers about the hazard of paddy straw. These include wall paintings made in hotspot villages 2,000; awareness vans 50; village/

block/district level awareness camps 2,500; school/ college activities 1,000; banners/hoardings erected at prominent places 2,000.

This is besides training of farmers/ CHC's/ youth of hot spot villages on operation and maintenance of CRM machinery by HAMETI, Jind-45,000 farmers and provision of Rs 24 crore for Kharif 2023

And the efforts have begun to tell. The cumulative effect of the efforts made on all three fronts is that Haryana has succeeded in reducing farm fires by about 40 per cent as compared to the previous year.

The outcome was made known at a presentation made at a meeting held to review the state's action plan and preparedness for tackling paddy straw burning.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. Sanjeev Kaushal, and Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Mr. M.M. Kutty, were present.

Mr. Kaushal emphasized the importance of promoting Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities in all districts, as well as raising awareness among

Action plan 2023-24

Promotion of agricultural mechanization for in-situ management of crop residue in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi

- Allocation by GoI under CRM scheme for the FY 2023-24- Rs 300 Crore
- Online Applications invited till 23.07.2023
- No. of In-Situ Machines-7572
- No. of Ex-Situ Machines-2200 Bailing Units with 6600 machines (Bailer, Hay Rake, Shrub Master)
- Subsidy on in-situ/ex-situ crop residue management machines – SMS, Happy Seeder, Paddy Straw Chopper/Shredder/Mulcher, Shrub Master/Rotary Slasher, Reversible Plough, Zero Till Seed cum Fertilizer Drill, Super Seeder, Baling Machine and Crop Reaper.
- Special emphasis on bailing unit, super seeder, zero till seed cum fertilizer drill machine
- Subsidy@50% for individual farmers
- Subsidy@80% for the establishment of CHCs by FPO/Panchayats/Societies



farmers about the detrimental effects of stubble burning.

All Deputy Commissioners have been asked to actively engage with farmers' unions.

They should convene separate meetings with concerned officers every 15 days.

To disseminate information about the incentive amounts provided to farmers and the availability of agricultural equipment, press conferences are being planned. Since stubble burning adversely affects the general public, hence educational institutions, religious or-

ganizations, and village panchayats will be involved in raising awareness about this issue.

Mr. M. M. Kutty, Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), lauded Haryana for doing better work in the direction of stubble management to reduce air pollution.

Farmers of nearby districts should be made aware to deliver stubble to the ethanol plant set up at IOCL Panipat for stubble management. Apart from this, industrial units should be encouraged to use the straw he added.

er CAQM performa

	2022-23	2023-24
(res)	65294	125000
(acre)	3713246	3657220
(e)	1865045	1836842
(acre)	1850700	1820294
(in acre)	60676	216915
(on)	7426492	7314440
	2389393	2462882
(ton)	3485752	3141892
(ton)	1551347	1709666
	1077680	1053000
	16100	219000
	25000	30000
	321749	306373
	16000	18000
s	18890	19590
tion	75928	63703
	1551347	1709666
	7426492	7314440
CAR)	3661	0

CHART-3 Micro level planning

Based on the Satellite data for kharif 2022 hot spot villages & district have been identified.

Identification of hot spot villages based on Satellite data for the year Kharif 2022

Zone	Nos of Villages Kharif 2021	Nos of Villages Kharif 2022
Red (6 & above AFL)	351	147
Yellow (2-5 AFL)	753	582
Green (0-1 AFL)	5800	6175

CHART-4 District-wise red and yellow zone villages

S.No	Name of District	Nos. of Red Zone village	Nos. of Yellow zone village
1.	Karnal	10	54
2.	Kaithal	36	107
3.	Jind	24	72
4.	Kurukshetra	6	65
5.	Fatehabad	49	74
6.	Sirsa	11	56
7.	Ambala	2	45
8.	Yamunanagar	0	30
9.	Hisar	3	22
10.	Rohtak	2	13
11.	Palwal	2	9
12.	Bhiwani	0	1
13.	Panipat	1	18
14.	Sonipat	1	16
	Total	147	582

Only 6 districts mentioned from 1-6 serial no. are having 88% red zone villages & 74% Yellow zone villages.

Plans/schemes to reduce the generation of paddy straw in Kharif -2023

Crop Diversification-MPMV (1.25 lakh acre)-Rs 87.5 crore, DSR (2 lakh acre) Rs 80 Crore. **Notified on : 13.03.2023.**

Adoption of Short Duration Varieties of Paddy.

Discouraging Long Duration Varieties-PUSA 44

Area under horti to be doubled by 2030

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

In what will have a major positive impact on the environment and on farmer's income, Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal has announced to increase the area under horticulture to 22 lakh acres by 2030 from the current 7 per cent of total cultivated land, and triple the production.

Farmers thank CM

For this, subsidies are offered to farmers under various schemes. In the financial year 2022-23, a subsidy of Rs 166.20 crore was distributed to 25,000 beneficiaries under various horticulture schemes, shared Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal while interacting with progressive farmers producing vegetables and fruits through audio conferencing held here on July 8.

During the interaction, progressive farmers thanked the Chief Minister and stated that Manohar Government is truly concerned for the welfare of farmers. Farmers said that the type of new programmes that Manohar Lal-led state government has initiated for them, in addition to the reduction in the cost of agriculture, have ensured that the output has maximum access to the market.

Meanwhile, the Haryana State Level Steering Committee meeting of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana



convened under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Mr Sanjeev Kaushal here on July 5 approved the annual plan worth Rs 1371.91 crore for the year 2023-24 to propel the state's agriculture and horticulture sector to new heights.

The decision assumes importance as agriculture and horticulture are interconnected fields and play vital roles in providing food, fiber, and environmental benefits. If agriculture encompasses the cultivation of crops and the rearing of livestock for food production on a large scale, involving practices such as land prepara-

tion, planting, irrigation, and crop management, horticulture emphasizes aesthetic appeal, quality, and diversity of plants.

The allocated funds will be utilized by institutions such as Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, (CCSHAU), Hisar, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, and Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, (IIWBR), Karnal. The plans will now be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Agriculture for the final approval.

ted to promoting organic farming. In addition, efforts are being made to improve soil fertility and implement water conservation measures. Furthermore, a sustainable production system will be developed for farmers to cultivate dates on saline land, thereby harnessing previously untapped agricultural potential. He said that as part of the pilot project by CSSRI, Karnal, improved infrastructure will be established to facilitate groundwater recharge in the villages.

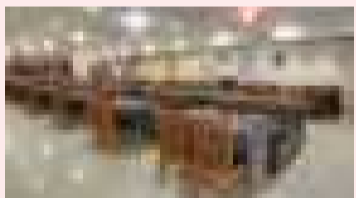
Video films

Mr Kaushal said that short video films showcasing successful stories of organic and horticulture farms will be produced and shared with farmers. This initiative aims to inspire other farmers to adopt the latest agricultural practices, contributing to a wider adoption of sustainable farming methods. He emphasized the government's commitment to doubling farmers' income and stressed the vital role of agricultural scientists in achieving this goal.

Furthermore, the Horticulture Department will impart training at seven different locations, encouraging farmers to explore the realm of horticulture. These training centres will be set up in strategic locations, including Bhuna, Gharaunda, Ladwa, Shamgarh, Sundrah, Hodal, and Pinangwan.

FORTNIGHT IN RETROSPECT

Now, restaurants can remain open 24X7



Restaurants will now remain open 24 hours in Haryana. There will be no restriction on them to close at night. The decision was announced by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, after presiding over a meeting of various departments.

Office-bearers of the restaurants union across the state had recently met Mr Chautala and demanded that the state government should allow them to keep restaurants open round-the-clock so that people can get food as per their convenience. The Deputy Chief Minister had called a meeting of various departments to decide the matter.

Mr Chautala directed the officers that keeping in mind the convenience of restaurants and the general public, owners who want to keep their outlets open for 24 hours in future, can do so. No one will force them to shut down, but they will have to register with the Labour Department and follow other terms and conditions (Section 9 and 10 of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958).

If any restaurant owner feels that someone is harassing him unnecessarily, he can register com-

plaint through email on MSME's mail id hepcharyana@gmail.com. He further informed that restaurants come under MSME.

Work on 729 Yogashalas completed

Haryana Chief Minister, Mr



Manohar Lal while presiding over a review meeting informed that in the first phase, 1000 Yogashalas/Vyayamashalas are to be constructed, out of which the construction work of 729 has been completed. During the meeting, the Chief Minister further directed the Rural Development Department that the work of construction, transfer and maintenance has been done with the state fund and in the ratio of 20:80. Under the scheme's framework, it is mandatory for Yogashalas/Vyayamashalas to have boundary walls, walking tracks and sheds for yoga.

Moreover, Mr Manohar Lal told Haryana Review that the overall responsibility of monitoring the Yogashalas/Vyayamashalas has been given to the Chief Executive Officers of the Zila Parishads. Also, district wise appointment of yoga assis-

tants should also be rationalized and strict action will be taken against those assistants who will be seen not working properly, he added.

Along with this, the Chief Minister further informed that the Yog, Ayog, Yoga practitioners trained by Patanjali have been appointed as yoga assistants on an honorarium of Rs 11,000 which is now Rs 17,000 after engaging them under HKRN. Around 648 Yoga Assistants have been appointed to impart yoga training to the people, he added.

Views sought on pre-Constitution laws

The Haryana Government has sought views from all administrative secretaries and heads of departments on the 37 pre-Constitution laws relevant to their respective departments and requested them to assess their suitability in the present circumstances. They have been requested to provide their views within one week.

In a letter addressed to all administrative secretaries and heads of departments, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Sanjeev Kaushal, said that the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department, has undertaken an examination of all pre-Constitution laws to determine their relevance and appropriateness in the current context.

Haryana hosts startup-20 summit at Gurugram

Haryana Review Bureau

Haryana once drew international attention by successfully holding the two-day Startup-20 Summit in Gurugram.

Governor Mr Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal attended the Startup-20 Summit's closing ceremony held on late Tuesday evening and wished the distinguished guests, international delegates, and startup entrepreneurs the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said: "It is a matter of pride for the state that it is hosting the prestigious Startup-20 Summit. The G-20 Startup 20 Summit in Gurugram will boost the startup ecosystem and encourage new goods and services, which is a very promising indicator for the future." The summit held on July 3-4 saw a lively debate among policymakers about startups in G20 countries, and emerging entrepreneurs showcasing their successful trials at the Startup Conclave.

The two-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem. In his address, Dr Chintan Vaishnav, Chair of Startup20, underscored the importance of specific action points outlined in the Policy Communiqué.

The key action points in Pol-

icy Communiqué includes the creation and adoption of a definition framework for startups, creating a networked institution to support startups and ecosystem stakeholders across G20, increasing and diversifying access to capital, easing market regulations for



startups, and prioritizing the inclusion of underrepresented communities within the startup ecosystem as well as the scaling up startups of global interest. These measures aim to foster a conducive environment that empowers startups to innovate, grow, and address global challenges effectively.

The Startup20 Gurugram Shikhar Summit serves as a critical platform for the startup ecosystem, ecosystem builders, industry experts, Government, policy makers, and thought leaders to collaborate and shape the trajectory of startups on a global scale. The Policy Communiqué sets the direction for G20 countries to scout promising startups intensively, fund them collaboratively, mentor them contextually and scale them globally. The Startup20 Gurugram summit also showcased some of the outstanding national and international startups.

All-out war on drugs

CM calls for help from saints, seers; Police told to gird up loin

By **Ajay Bhardwaj**

In an unprecedented offensive the Manohar Lal government has launched an all-out war on drugs in Haryana in which all sections of the society, particularly the seers and saints, have been called upon to make the state drug-free.

The police have been asked to gird up their lion and decimate the drug menace decisively from the state.

Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal recently launched a state-wide drug-free Haryana campaign at a programme organized on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit

He said that under the drug-

in criminal activities.

The chief minister has called upon the Haryana Police to intensify their efforts and wage a resolute war against the menace of drugs in the state.

Operation Dhvast

In an interactive session with police personnel of different ranks the Chief Minister commended the police force for their relentless dedication and emphasized the need for collective action to combat drug abuse.

The Chief Minister highlighted the success of 'Operation Dhvast' against drug peddlers which is being operative in June. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness about the detrimental im-

Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula to mark 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking, Illicit Trafficking' day.

The Chief Minister asserts that since ancient times, saints and great men have always worked to make people aware against social evils. Following the principles and teachings of great saints who have always guided society to follow the right path. The Chief Minister asked the saints to assist the state government in its water conservation and de-addiction campaigns.

He said that during the meeting with the Chief Minister on May 5, the Saints had assured full support and cooperation to the State Government to make the drug-free Haryana campaign a grand success.



Saathi App, HAWK to the fore

The Haryana government has been taking stringent action against the drug peddlers. For this, the government has constituted a special task force. Anti-narcotics cells have been constituted at the district, range and state levels and more than 5,000 arrests have been made in Haryana.

Mobile app 'Saathi' has been created to prevent illegal sale of medicines. Also, software HAWK has been devel-



oped for the database of criminal activities and the Inter-State Drug

Secretariat has been established in Panchkula.

free Haryana campaign, the Saints and Gurus would work closely with the State Government in bringing those involved in the drug menace into the mainstream of the society.

He urged the people of the state, social institutions and Saints and Gurus to work together with determination to build a drug-free Haryana.

He stressed the need for a multi-pronged approach that encompasses strict law enforcement, community engagement, and proactive measures to prevent drug trafficking and consumption.

He said there was an urgent need of bringing affected youth back to the mainstream and safeguarding children from the dangers of drug addiction, thereby preventing them from engaging

in the ill effects of drug abuse.

Calling upon the police officers and personnel to unite in their respective areas to address drug abuse comprehensively and sensitively, the Chief Minister expressed confidence in their ability to guide the youth towards a drug-free future through determination and courage.

Saints to join campaign

On May 5, 2023, on the occasion of CM's birthday, Sh. Manohar Lal appealed to the saints to cooperate with the government to remove the social evils spread in the society. In this series, a programme will be organized under the guidance of Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj at

He said that the State Government's Nasha Mukta Abhiyan would be included in the programmes to be organized under the Jio Gita, added Gyananand Ji Maharaj. There are about 152 drug de-addiction centres in Haryana while efforts would be made to start yoga and exercise in these centres.

Awareness campaign

A special publicity campaign will be launched by the Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department at a grand scale to make people aware of the drug abuse problem.

The Chief Minister released the booklet of the publicity campaign to be run by the Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department.

The Chief Minister said that under the Drug-free Haryana Cam-

paign, people would be motivated to give up the habit of drugs through folk songs, raginis and plays.

He said that in the special publicity campaign to be run by the In-

formation, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, programmes would be organized regularly by bhajan and drama groups at public places in villages and schools and colleges.

Police stations to get legal Aid

Haryana Review Bureau

Home Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that since the conviction rate in drug abuse cases was 45 per cent the state government would make an effort to provide legal aid at the police station level to ensure strict punishment to the accused involved in the drug trafficking and to keep the matter firmly in the court also.

He said that proceedings are going on in this regard and this legal aid system will soon be available at the police station level.

He said that drug dealers get away due to some legal hurdles and loopholes, but if the case against the persons caught in the drug case is given legal aid at the very beginning, then the case can be strengthened.

So, our government will soon give legal aid at the police station level so that the next life of any accused caught by the police can be spent in jail.

Deportation clause

The state government would

soon hold talks with the Central Government to deport the people involved in Chitta peddling and a solution will be found in this regard. He said that many apps, laws and rules have been framed by the government to crack down on criminals.

An App is being developed to keep the information of chemists and medicine so that there is a record of every medicine and this will also be implemented soon.

Similarly, drug de-addiction centers will be set up in every district and wherever there are centres, it will be inspected by the officials of the Health and Food and Drug Department so that no wrongdoing can be done there.

The state government would give 30 awards to the policemen doing excellent work, out of which 10 awards will be given by the Chief Minister, 10 by the Home Minister and 10 by the Director General of Police.



Monsoon is here

—Photo by Vinay Malik



Cash reward for 15 for rescuing woman

By Shagun Kapoor

The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has announced a total cash reward of Rs. 3.15 lakh along with a citation for 15 persons, including a woman, who bravely rescued a woman trapped in the Ghaggar river in Panchkula.

The incident took place when Mrs Sangeeta Bajaj, resident of Panchkula, was stranded along with her car while performing religious rituals near the river bed. Due to heavy rainfall, the water level rapidly rose, and the car was swept away by the current.

However, some valiant persons of village Kharak Mangoli of Panchkula namely; Vikram, Kishan, Sonu, Sunil, Pappu Kumar, Chhote Lal, Rashpal Singh Chauhan, Salim, Mahendra, Jitendra, Sanju, Ranjit, Anil, Bablu, and Mamta, risked their lives and rescued her. Later, she was admitted to the civil hospital, Panchkula.

Tasting the king of fruits

Haryana Review Bureau

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, visited the 30th Mango Mela, jointly organized by the Tourism and Horticulture Departments, at the historic Yadavindra Garden in Pinjore. He visited different stalls, tasted the luscious king of fruits, and interacted with the mango growers who had come from different states.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the primary objective behind organizing the mango mela is to educate both the public and farmers about the various types of mangoes available, while also encouraging greater interest in mango cultivation.

The three-day mela was inaugurated by Mr J P Dalal, Minister for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, on July 7, 2023.



CM tries his hand at judo-karate

Haryana Review Bureau

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, tried his hands at judo-karate, participated in a competition as a part of the Raahgiri programme held in Karnal and defeated his opponent. He encouraged the artists, players, and youth participating in various activities in the programme.

“Sports competition is a



game of intelligence. That's why all young players should train well and bring laurels to their state and the country by winning medals in competitions”, the Chief Minister said.

Commonwealth Championship gold medalist (Shooting) player Anish Bhanwala and London Olympics boxing player Sumit Sangwan also attended the programme. During this, the Chief Minister congratulated world champion Neeraj Chopra for winning the gold medal.

Mr Manohar Lal also met the

Gatka team in the Raahgiri programme and saw their spectacular performances. Gatka is a game of bravery, courage, and intelligence. It is played with passion. Along with strength, intelligence has to be used in this game, he added.

While attending the Raahgiri programme, the Chief Minister encouraged artists, players, and youth to participate in various ac-

tivities of the programme. With several mesmerising activities, the Raahgiri programme left an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of the attendees. Apart from the fun of cultural programmes and different sports activities, the Great Khali was the centre of attraction.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Manohar Lal said that the Raahgiri programme had earlier bagged first place in the entire state. Restarting this programme in Karnal is a praiseworthy effort.