www.haryanasamvad.gov.in February 1-15, 2021 Volume 12 | Price ₹5

Haryana Review

haryanareview@gmail.com

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

REVIVING SARASVATI HERITAGE

Making it flow along the Palaeo-course from Adi Badri (Yamunanagar)

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CORONA TRACKER ■ ACTIVE CASES - **1,511** ■ SAMPLES TESTED - **50,77,344** ■ PATIENTS DISCHARGED - **2,62,682** ■ RECOVERY RATE - **98.31%** ■ POSITIVITY RATE - **5.27%** ■ FATALITY RATE - **1.13%**

ON JANUARY 25, 2021

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Plots soon in Rs 180-cr Rohtak Mega Food Park

By **PARVEEN K MODI**

Aspiring entrepreneurs wanting to set up various facilities in the Rs 179.5-crore Mega Food Park, being set up by HAFED in IMT, Rohtak, will soon be allotted plots through the auction route.

The HSIIDC would soon cobble together its outreach plan and set rolling the process for the auction of plots. Work is apace on the food park being set up over 50 acres, the project management contract for which has been awarded to Schoolnet India Ltd, earlier known as IL&FS.

Proportionate expenditure of Rs 16.14 crore on laying such basic enabling infrastructure as roads, sewerage, streetlights etc., has already been made on the project for which the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), Government of India, has granted Rs 50-crore grant-in-aid.

Outlining details of the project, Mr Sanjeev Kaushal, ACS, Financial Commissioner, Revenue, told Haryana Review that the five-acre processing area of the core processing centre shall have the following types and number of plots: Type A - 450 Sq. Mt.(38); Type B 1,012.5 Sq. Mt. (20); Type C 1,800 Sq. Mt.(17); and Type D 4,050 Sq. Mt. (5). The allotment process will be initiated soon.

While the core processing centre of the project would be located at IMT Rohtak (Phase III), its primary processing centres would be spread over three locations in as many districts: Manakpur (Yamunanagar), Bawal (Rewari) and Narwana (Jind).

The total project cost of Rs 179.75 crore is proposed to be financed by HAFED Rs 74.75 crore (41.59 pc) ;grant from the MOFPI Rs 50.27 crore (27.81 pc); and term loan of Rs 55.30 crore (30.6 pc) from NABARD.

The HSIIDC will transfer land for the food park on freehold basis to HAFED without any upfront payment. It would be responsible for its marketing and would take all necessary steps to work out a proper outreach plan for the sale of plots.

On completion, HAFED would transfer the project to HSIIDC along with assets, liabilities and operations. HAFED shall be entitled to 2 per cent of the project cost as administrative charges before transfer of this project to the HSIIDC, Mr Kaushal said.

The core processing facilities being set up at the park include a multipurpose cold storage of 5,000 MT capacity; IQF-1.5 MT/hr; deep freeze facility of 1,500 MT; raw material/finished goods warehouse 7,500 MT; silos 2,500 MT; steam generation-2 MT/hr; food testing lab and four sheds.

These are besides 500-MT warehouse; 1.5-MT/ hr sorting and grading yard; 500-MT cold storage; 10,000-LPD Milk Chilling Unit; 10-MT milk storage facility; and 300-MT cold storage.

Haryana to develop tourist hubs on Sarasvati River

By **AJAY BHARDWAJ**

In order to give a boost to religious tourism, the Haryana Government has decided to develop Pipli in Kurukshetra district as a world-class tourist hub on the Sarasvati Setu to attract tourists from within the country and abroad.

Coupled with Adi Badri in Yamunanagar, the starting point of river Sarasvati on the planes, it is expected to place Haryana on the international tourist map.

The task of developing the two places as tourism hubs has been entrusted to the Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB). Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, who is chairman of the Board, approved the proposal at a meeting held recently.

The tourist hub in Pipli would offer facilities like boating, restaurants, parks, museums etc to the visitors. The chief minister has also directed that five-six water bodies should be developed in Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra districts for the storage of excess water during the rainy season which could be utilised for irrigation and related purposes. This would not only give a boost to tourism activities in the area but also improve the underground water level in Kurukshetra, Pehowa, Ladwa and Radaur.

The Sarasvati River project is a prestigious project of the State Government as the water flowing in the river would not only help in overcoming the problem of dark zones in Yamunanagar, Karnal and Kaithal districts but would also help channelise water which adversely affects the crops in the fields for irrigating fields and beautification of rural ponds.

Meanwhile, the Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) would organise a 3-day International Saraswati Mahotsav-2021 from February 14 to February 16, 2021 at Adi Badri and Pehowa to showcase the rich heritage and history of the sacred river Saraswati where all of the ancient scriptures including the Vedas and Upanishads were written. The event would be open to the public and entry would be free.

On the International Saraswati Mahotsav-2021, one-day International Seminar on Saraswati would be organised on February 15, 2021 in which Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal would be the Chief Guest and would digitally deliver his address. Representatives of 16 countries would participate in the Seminar. It was also decided at the meeting that on the pattern of Maha Aarti on Brahma Sarovar, evening Aarti would be performed in Adi Badri on February 14, 2021 and in Pehowa on February 16, 2021.

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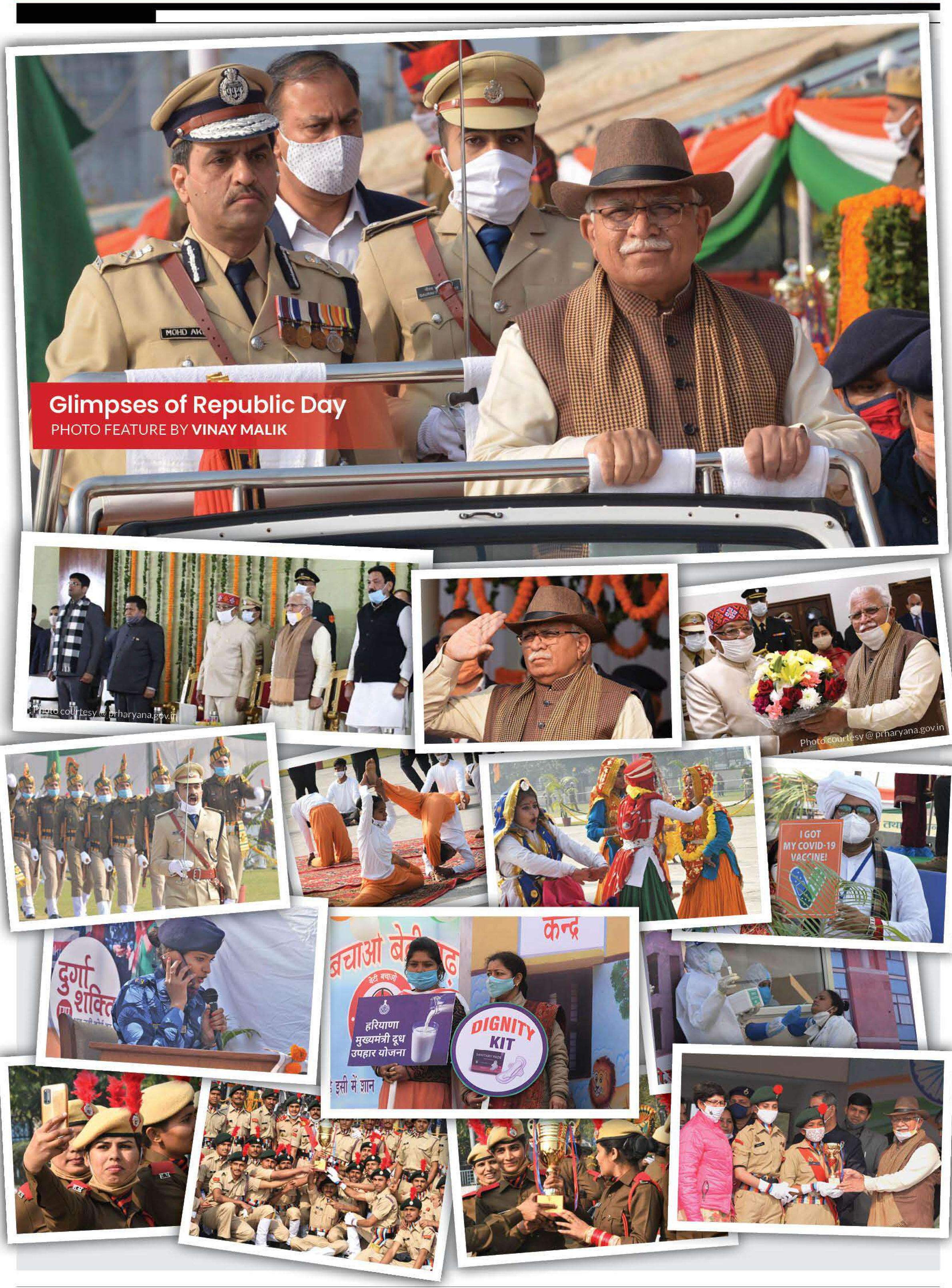


Glimpses of Republic Day

PHOTO FEATURE BY **VINAY MALIK**

FORTNIGHT IN RETROSPECT

Rehabilitate slum dwellers: CM

While taking forward the vision of Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, to ensure Housing for All by 2022, the Chief Minister has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive scheme for the rehabilitation of urban slums in the state by providing residential flats to the slum dwellers at affordable prices. To begin with, Faridabad and Gurugram are proposed to be taken up under the scheme.

Presiding over a meeting on 'Housing for All', he said that subsequently, the scheme would be rolled out in other big cities of the state too. The state government's goal is to provide affordable housing facilities to the entire slum population residing in urban areas of the state.

The rehabilitation scheme would be prepared by the Department of 'Housing for All'. Under this scheme, it would be ensured that the sites for the construction of flats are suitably located within the city and the slum dwellers are shifted to residential flats with their consent. There are a large number of slum dwellers in the state who are ready to shift in constructed dwelling units, he added.

HSR revised to check graft

Taking a historic decision to eradicate corruption, the Chief Minister has announced revision of the Haryana Schedule Rates (HSR) which remained unchanged since 1987. As per the announcement, new HSR will come into force from March 1, 2021. Besides, once the new HSR becomes effective, all the items will be included in the HSR, putting an end to inclusion of non-scheduled items. The revised HSR will act as base for inviting new tenders and evaluating work performance. The HSR will be revised after every five years, announced the Chief Minister.

He made this announcement while pressing over the first of its kind meeting with administrative secretaries and civil engineer contractors. The Chief Minister also announced that from now onwards, state-level IT solution will be introduced for works pertaining to civil engineering.

This IT system will be implemented from April 1, 2021. Under this system, contractors will have to get themselves registered. Apart from this, the registered contractors will not have to give bid security. However, at the time of registration they will now have to fill a bid security declaration form, announced Mr Manohar Lal.

Covid vaccination drive rolls out

By **AJAY BHARDWAJ**

Haryana's combat against Covid-19 takes a big leap forward with the onset of the vaccination drive. More than one lakh healthcare workers have been vaccinated so far after the vaccination campaign started on January 16 last.

On the first day itself, the Haryana Health Department administered the COVID-19 vaccine to 5,907 beneficiaries at 77 immunization sites across the state.

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first phase of COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Saroj Bala, 45, was the first beneficiary at Civil Dispensary, Sector 4, Panchkula.

The vaccine was administered in a meticulous manner while adhering to the guidelines issued by the Government of India. It was thereafter administered to several eminent doctors and frontline healthcare workers.

Haryana Health Minister, Mr. Anil Vij congratulated the entire Health Department for working assiduously to ensure flawless administration of the largest vaccine drive. The Health Minister said that the fact that eminent doctors have been administered the vaccine reflects that the vaccine is safe and gradually 67 lakh beneficiaries will be administered the vaccine in a phased manner of which 2.25 lakh healthcare workers will be administered the vaccine in the first phase.

GOI GUIDELINES ADHERED TO

Special Secretary (Health) Prabhjot Singh said that the vaccine is not to be administered to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below 18 years of age as per the guidelines. He said instructions have been given to refrain from administering the COVID-19 vaccine on immunization days or during essential health activities like Pulse Polio Drive and on public holidays.

Director General Health Services Dr. S.B. Kamboj said that the vaccine is safe and has been prepared after much research and people should get it administered without any apprehensions. ADGHS, Dr. Veena Singh, who was the third recipient to be administered the vaccine said that experts have formulated the vaccine after thorough research and it is safe.

As per guidelines given by GOI, the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered sequentially starting from Health Care Workers (HCWs). Category 1: Health Care Workers. Category 2: Front line workers like Municipal and sanitary worker, State and Central Police force, Civil Defence, Armed forces, revenue workers. Category 3: Population above 50 years of Age and Population below 50 years with co-morbidities will be given the vaccine.

While the number of health care workers in Haryana is around two lakh, frontline workers are around 4.50 lakh. The frontline workers will include employees of urban local bodies, safai karmacharis, police, civil defence personnel, jail staff and revenue department employees. Similarly, about 58 lakh people who are aged above 50 and about 2.25 lakh people below 50 years, who are suffering from other diseases, will be given vaccination shots.

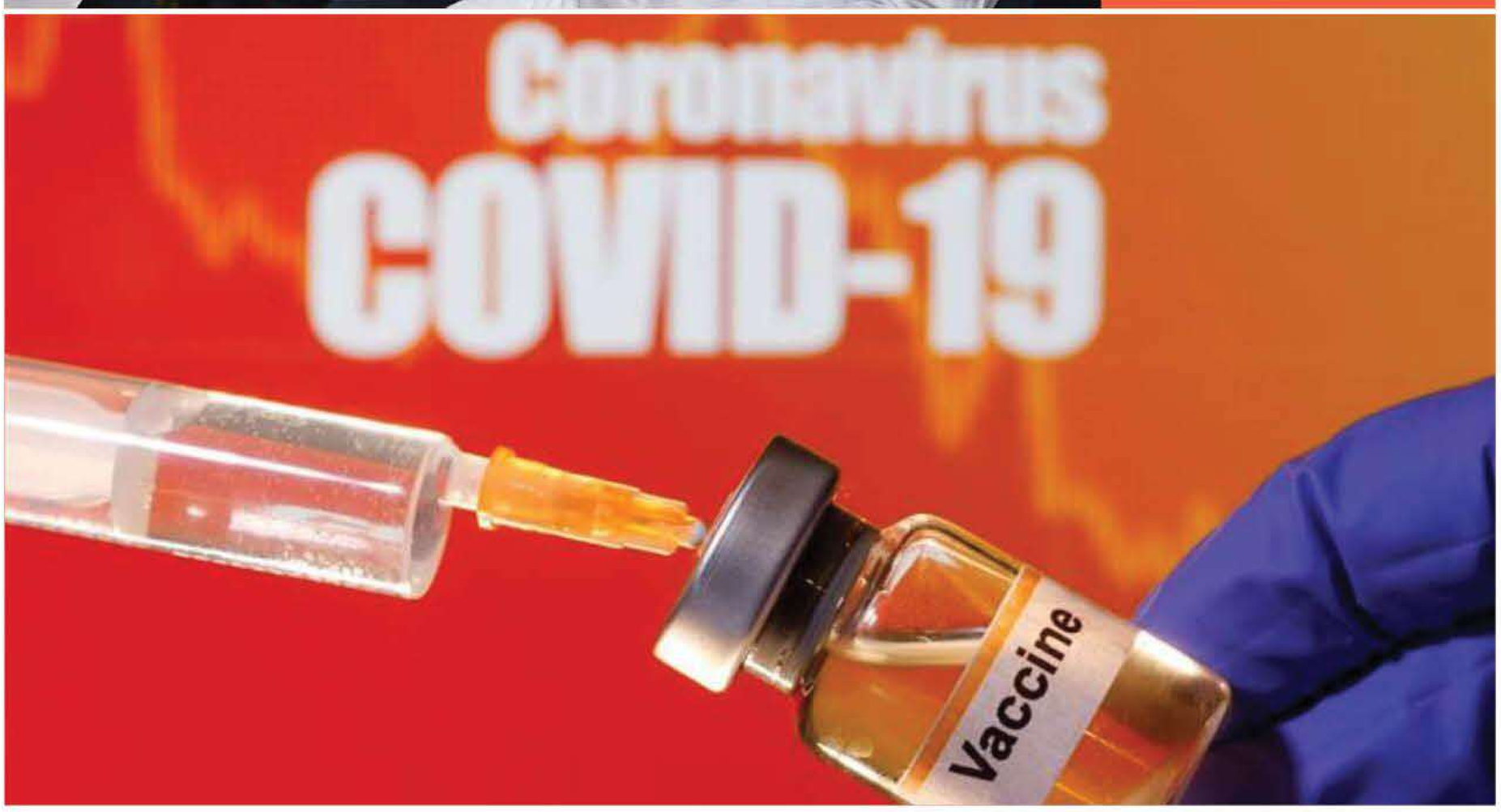
Haryana will receive 2,41,500 doses of Serum Institute of India's Covishield and 20,000 doses of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin which would be stored at four regional vaccination centres set up in Hisar, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Kurukshetra. Subsequently, it is distributed to the cold chains that are set up across all 22 districts.

Panchkula sanitation worker first to be vaccinated

The first recipient of the vaccine in Panchkula district, Saroj Bala, who has been working as a sanitation worker for the last 20 years was keen to get the vaccine administered. After the vaccine was administered to her she said that being a frontline worker she was enthusiastic to get the vaccine administered and felt fine after it was done.

Additional Chief Secretary Health, Rajeev Arora said that the "influencers" or eminent doctors who have been administered the vaccine dose were doing fine. Elaborating on it further he said that as per the guidelines three enclosures (areas) have been created as waiting area, vaccination room and observation area. Besides this, before administering the vaccine the information of the beneficiary is updated on the CoWIN portal which assists in maintaining the latest information. He said that after verifying the credentials of the beneficiary his information is updated on the CoWIN portal. Subsequently, the beneficiary is administered the vaccine and is sent to the observation ward. Sharing details of the various steps taken to ensure systematic COVID-19 rollout he said that around 5,000 vaccinators and health workers were imparted training for the task.

On the care to be taken after administration of COVID-19 vaccine, Arora said that COVID appropriate behaviour like wearing masks and social distancing have to be adhered to even after administration of the vaccine.



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HARYANA RANKS SIXTH IN INNOVATION INDEX

Its Innovation score of 25.81 is higher than the average score of 25.35 among major states

By **PARVEEN K MODI**

If it was the Sustainable Development Goals last year, it is the India Innovation Index this year. The tiny state of Haryana continues to score big on various parameters and rub shoulders with some of its advanced and progressive cousins in the country. In what amounts to a ringing endorsement of the innovative and futuristic policies pursued by the Manohar Lal Government, Haryana has creditably ranked sixth among the top ten innovative states in India.

According to the India Innovation Index 2020, prepared and released by the Niti Aayog, Karnataka has maintained its top position among the major states. While Maharashtra has leapfrogged Tamil Nadu to occupy the second place, Telangana, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab complete the list of top ten in that order. Among the Union Territories and north-eastern and hill states, Delhi and Himachal occupy top spots, respectively.

It may be recalled that early last year Haryana had come to occupy the high bench shared by performers and front-runners from the standpoint of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).Logging a composite score of 57, the state had performed very well chasing many of the 17 goals and meeting 169 targets. Ranking 18 among the 29 states in Niti Aayog's SDGs Report for 2019, the state was well on way to catching up with the national average of 60.

The 2020 edition of Innovation Index builds on the previous year's methodology by introducing more metrics to provide a more holistic outlook of the Indian economy. The framework has been updated to include globally considered parameters for measuring innovation, such as the percentage of GDP spent on research and development, while keeping them specific to the Indian economy.

HAD SCORED BIG ON SDGS TOO

It was early last year that Haryana had come to occupy the high bench shared by performers and front-runners from the standpoint of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Logging a composite score of 57, the state had performed very well chasing many of the 17 goals and meeting 169 targets. Ranking 18 among the 29 states in Niti Aayog's SDGs Report for 2019, the state was well on its way to catching up with the national average of 60.

Haryana proudly shared space with other states under the category of performers for Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) and Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities).

Notably, Haryana had improved performance in the area of education with the state registering a decline in the number of students dropping out from secondary schools.

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

The consensus that emerged after detailed rounds with experts Niti Aayog engaged with was to include input and output as the main dimensions for the index. Five inputs and two output pillars were created consisting of indicators that enable and epitomize innovation in India. The Index measures innovation inputs through 'Enablers' and innovation output as 'Performance.'

The five Enabler pillars that capture elements of the state economy and act as inputs for the innovation environment are: Human Capital; Investment; Knowledge workers; Business Environment; Safety and Legal Environment. The two Performance pillars which depict the performance are: Knowledge output and knowledge diffusion.

INDEX SCORES

The two dimensions (Enablers and Performance) are believed to reflect equally important aspects of innovation. Therefore, while calculating the index no priority has been given to any dimension. Equal weight has been assigned to each of them to highlight their roles.

Creditably, Haryana's Innovation score of 25.81 is higher than the average innovation score of 25.35 among the major states. Take in totality Indian states have achieved an average score of 23.4 in the Innovation Index. Karnataka tops with 42.5 its high FDI inflow having also enhanced the innovation capabilities. Maharashtra follows second at 38, while Bihar finishes last at 14.5.

Out of a score of 80, Haryana logged 64.69 in Safety and Legal Environment and 47.22 in Human Capital. The other scores are: Innovation 25.81; Enablers 32.59; Investment 16.49; Knowledge Workers 15.57; Business Environment 18.96; Performance 19.03; Knowledge Output 22.85; and Knowledge Diffusion15.22.

The India Innovation Index, an outcome of extensive research and analysis for evaluating states' as well as the country's innovation readiness at a sub-national level, highlights the obstacles that deter governments, businesses, and individuals from fully capturing the benefits of innovation.

FOUR SECTIONS

The Niti Aayog report broadly consists of four thematic sections. The first talks about innovation and its ability to drive economic growth; the crucial role it plays in not only facilitating the country's recovery but also sustaining competitiveness during these times. Apart from this, a comparison is drawn between India and select economies on various parameters to give an idea how the country fares globally.

The next section lays out the unique framework of innovation and the methodology used to calculate the index, followed by key findings and rankings. Karnataka has maintained its top position among the major states, while Maharashtra has leapfrogged Tamil Nadu to occupy the second place, says the report.

This section also captures trends and provides a detailed analysis of various factors that drive innovation in the state and the country. The Niti Aayog hopes that these analyses will help policymakers in identifying the catalysts and inhibitors of innovation at the national and sub-national levels.

Key objectives

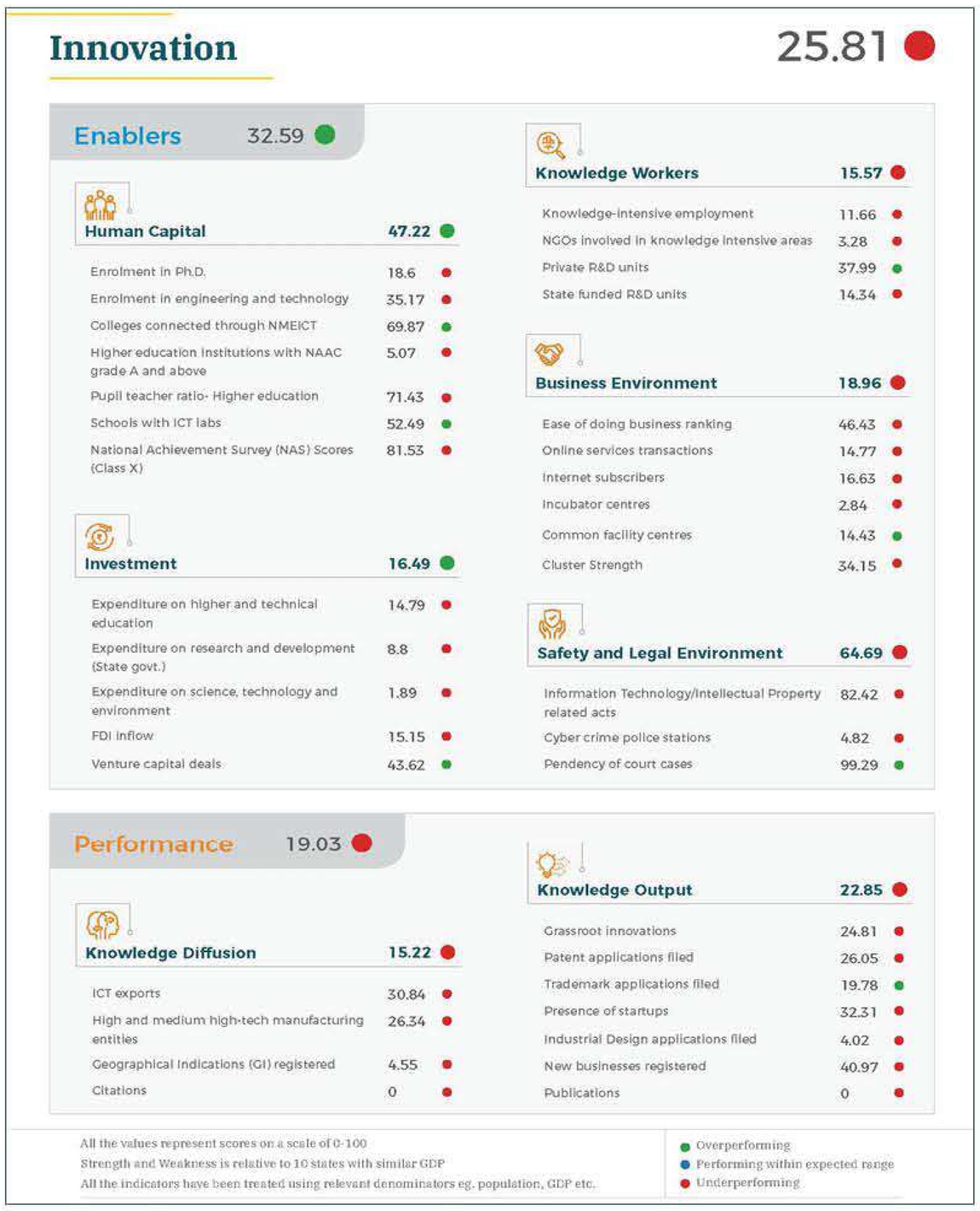
The objective of the India Innovation Index is to scrutinize the innovation capacities and performance of Indian states and Union Territories. It intends to accomplish the following three functions:

- **Rank all states and union territories based on their index score**
- **Identify opportunities and challenges**
- **Assist in modifying governmental policies to foster innovation**

The third section provides learning and recommendations at the national and state level for policymakers to ponder. Also included are profiles of all the states and union territories, providing a comprehensive snapshot of each region's current innovation landscape.

Finally, the last section of the report consists of detailed data tables for all the framework indicators, along with sources and definitions.

The last edition of the India Innovation Index, released in October 2019, was a first-of-its-kind metric for assessing the innovation capabilities of Indian states and union territories. Since then, India, and the world have undergone a tectonic shift due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the pandemic triggering an economic shutdown, the role of innovation in revitalizing the economy has never been more important, says Niti Aayog.



Innovation 25.81

Enablers	32.59
Human Capital	**47.22**
Enrolment in Ph.D.	18.6
Enrolment in engineering and technology	35.17
Colleges connected through NMEICT	69.87
Higher education institutions with NAAC grade A and above	5.07
Pupil teacher ratio- Higher education	71.43
Schools with ICT labs	52.49
National Achievement Survey (NAS) Scores (Class X)	81.53
Investment	**16.49**
Expenditure on higher and technical education	14.79
Expenditure on research and development (State govt.)	8.8
Expenditure on science, technology and environment	1.89
FDI inflow	15.15
Venture capital deals	43.62
Knowledge Workers	**15.57**
Knowledge-intensive employment	11.66
NGOs involved in knowledge intensive areas	3.28
Private R&D units	37.99
State funded R&D units	14.34
Business Environment	**18.96**
Ease of doing business ranking	46.43
Online services transactions	14.77
Internet subscribers	16.63
Incubator centres	2.84
Common facility centres	14.43
Cluster Strength	34.15
Safety and Legal Environment	**64.69**
Information Technology/Intellectual Property related acts	82.42
Cyber crime police stations	4.82
Pendency of court cases	99.29

Performance	19.03
Knowledge Diffusion	**15.22**
ICT exports	30.84
High and medium high-tech manufacturing entities	26.34
Geographical Indications (GI) registered	4.55
Citations	0
Knowledge Output	**22.85**
Grassroot innovations	24.81
Patent applications filed	26.05
Trademark applications filed	19.78
Presence of startups	32.31
Industrial Design applications filed	4.02
New businesses registered	40.97
Publications	0

All the values represent scores on a scale of 0-100
Strength and Weakness is relative to 10 states with similar GDP
All the indicators have been treated using relevant denominators eg. population, GDP etc.

Overperforming
Performing within expected range
Underperforming

Reviving Sarasvati Heritage

By **AJAY BHARDWAJ**

Reviving the river Sarasvati and making it flow along the Palaeo-course from Adi Badri (Yamunanagar) onwards as identified by the geo-scientists in Haryana is soon expected to become a reality.

Taking a major step forward, the state would build a dam on Som river located on the border of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh for the restoration of Sarasvati river. According to the Haryana Tourism Minister, Mr. Kanwar Pal, the Himachal Pradesh Government has given a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the construction of this dam and the Irrigation Department has forwarded the design of the dam to Central Water Commission for further course of action.

The minister said at the place of Adi Badri, a barrage (dam) has also been proposed downstream of the Som river which will allow water to flow through the underground pipeline to the Sarasvati reservoir at village Rampur Hirya, Rampur Kambian, and Chillaur.

The administrative approval was accorded recently to construct a Dam,Barrage and Reservoir on Somb River for perennial flow of water in Sarasvati river throughout the year. The Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB), which has been supervising the entire work, has also undertaken a series of research and development activities for the resurgence of the Vedic Sarasvati culture and heritage in the state.

For the Somb barrage and Sarasvati reservoir,the hydrological aspects and quantum of water in Sarasvati River has been finalised in consultation with the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee.

The construction of River section in district Yamuna Nagar from Sarasvati Reservoir to Uncha-Chandna and construction of intervening structures i.e. bridges, culverts, cross-drainage works, hydraulic fall,inlets etc.from Sarasvati Reservoir to its outfall in River Ghaggar-Sarasvati has been envisaged in the next step.

The barrage on River Somb downstream of proposed Adi Badri Dam would help diverting surplus flood water through underground pipeline to proposed Sarasvati Reservoir at village Rampur Herian, Rampur Kambian and Chellaur in Yamuna Nagar district.

On its completion the project would be in a position to divert about 894 hectare-meters of flood water to Sarasvati Reservoir. The ground inspection has been done by NIH Roorkee,GSI and Central Ground Water Board.The Central Water Commission is working on the designing part of the Barrage and its Reservoir.The necessary NOC has been obtained.The Government of Haryana in its Budget for the year 2021 made the provision for construction of barrage and reservoir.

The Geological Survey of India and the Central Ground Water Board.and other necessary NOCs have been obtained.The Central Water Commission is working on the designing part of the dam.The storage in the Dam Reservoir in Himachal Pradesh will be about 331.31 hectare-meters. After completion of this project the storage capacity of the Sarasvati Reservoir at village Rampur Herian,Rampur Kambian and Chillaur in Haryana area also will be increased from 1000 hectare-meters to 1475 hectare meter.

The Sarasvati River was apparently made functional in 2016 by releasing surplus flood water of river Yamuna through Shahbad feeder at Uncha Chandna and drainage of flood water from its catchment in Yamuna Nagar, along its course through Pipli,Kurukshetra,Pehowa,Andli (Kaithal) to the Punjab border which has been identified as a palaeo course of the ancient Sarasvati river system.

The 72 villages situated on the bank of Sarasvati River draining the polluted water of the village into the Sarasvati River were identified in 2016 following which in order to stop polluted water into the Sarasvati River 25 sewage treatment plants on Seechewal Model in Yamuna Nagar and Kurukshetra district was sanctioned to ensure zero pollution in River Sarasvati. Haryana Tourism Minister, Mr. Kanwar Pal said that the government is making earnest efforts for rejuvenation of the Sarasvati river. Work is being done to cleanse the polluted water entering the river from villages situated at the banks of river Sarasvati. Around 25 Liquid Waste Management systems are being installed on the Seechewal Model in Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra districts for this purpose.

Among various steps taken by the HSHDB to familiarise the people with the Sarasvati culture and heritage four international conferences have been held so far, besides organising "Sarasvati Mahotsav" annually on the Basant Panchami day.

Among various steps taken by the HSHDB to famiiliarise the people with the Sarasvati heritage four international conferences have been organised bsides an annual Sarasvati mahotsav which is held on Basant Panchami every year.

CHIEF MINISTER'S STELLAR VISION: HARYANA SARASVATI HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

It was on November 17, 1985 that Padma Shri Dr. V.S. Wakankar started a three-day Sarasvati Shodh Yatra from Adi Badri, Yamuna Nagar under the inspiration of Manopanth Pingle.

Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, who is Chairman of the Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB), actively participated in it.

It was as a result of the inspiration and experience gained through the Yatra that the Sarasvati Heritage Development Board under his Chairmanship was established in October 2015 with a purpose of reviving the culture and heritage of River Sarasvati and presenting it to the world.

The Sarasvati Heritage places like Adi Badri, Sarasvati Nagar, Kurukshetra, Pehowa, Kalayat, Kunal, Bhirdana, Rakhi-Garhi, Sirsaetc have been considered for Tourist Circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Government of India.

HSHDB Activities

- All maps related to the Sarasvati River from Survey of India, satellite maps and Paleochannels maps from ISRO and HARSEC have also been obtained for future reference.
- Aksh-Shizra of all the villages along the course of the River have been digitized for the first time in the state of Haryana.
- Eighteen bridges have been constructed on Sarasvati River in district Kurukshetra and Yamuna Nagar.
- Developmental works to the tune of Rs. 9.00 crores for rejuvenation of Sarasvati Tirath Pehowa are in progress.
- New Ghats for ladies have been constructed at Pehowa Tirath.
- Perennial flow of the River throughout the year at Sarasvati Tirath Pehowa has been ensured.

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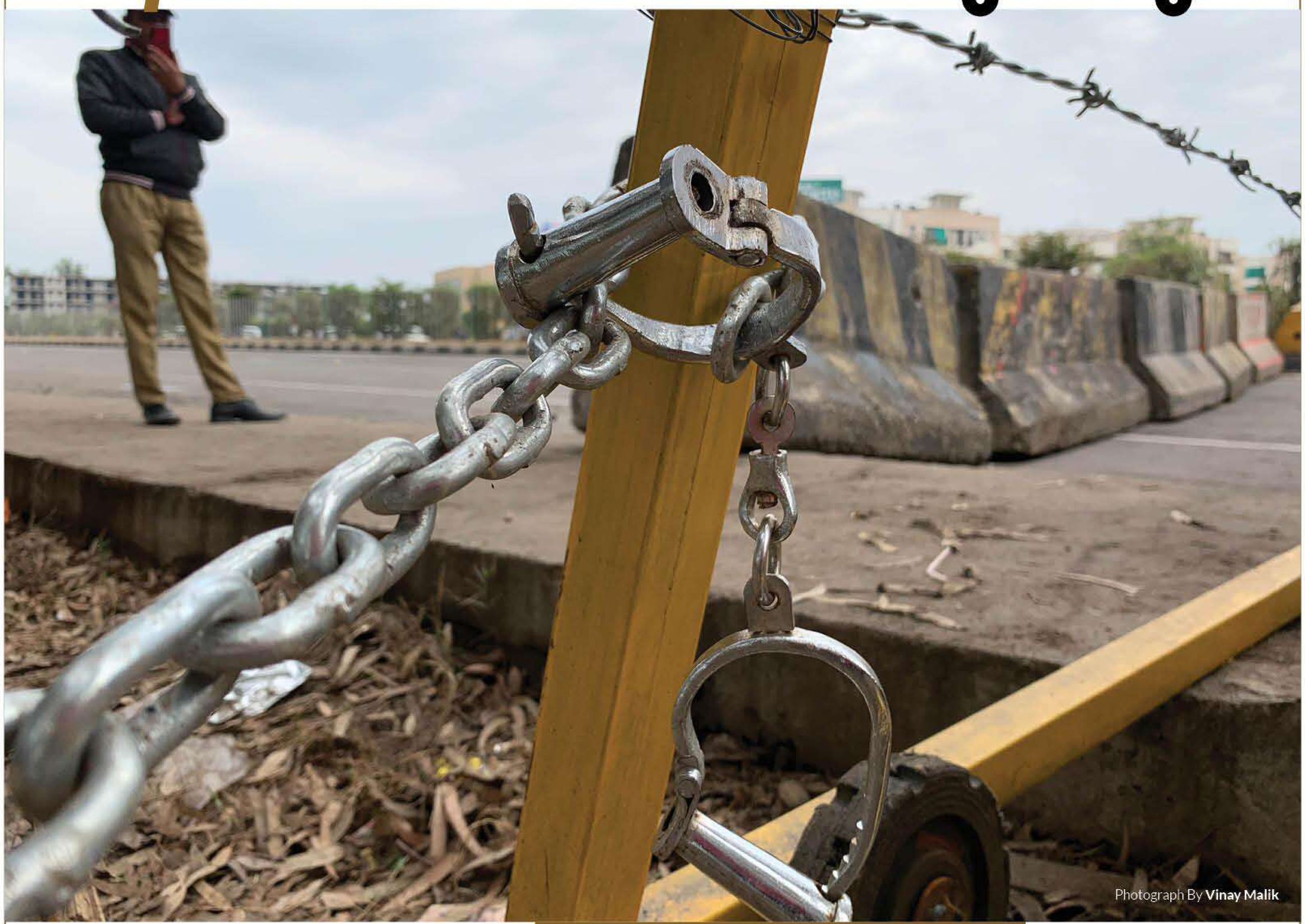
Haryana defies nefarious drug designs



Photograph By **Vinay Malik**

By **RAJEEV RANJAN ROY**

Though sandwiched between Rajasthan and Punjab, two bordering states facing the menace of drug peddlers, Haryana's hawk-eyed police have been successful in defying the nefarious designs of the merchants of drugs, thus saving scores of families from untold miseries. The Haryana Police seized a whopping 22.5 tonnes of narcotic substances across the state in 2020.

According to Director General of Police (DGP), Mr Manoj Yadava, police filed a total of 3,024 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 2020, as against 2,645 cases registered in 2019. The quantity of drugs seized also increased by 41.53 per cent in 2020 as compared to the previous year. A total of 22,569 kg of opium, charas, sulpha, poppy husk, smack, ganja and heroin were confiscated between January and December 2020.

Giving details, he said that 225 kg opium, 250 kg charas/sulpha, over 12828 kg poppy husk, 8 kg 253 gram smack, over 9223 kg ganja and 33 kg 198 gram heroin was seized. To prevent drug trafficking, police have been working relentlessly to curb drug menace. It is because of our team's efforts as well as increased inter-state cooperation for exchange of information that the number of arrests has increased this year compared to last year.

"We have adopted a multi-pronged approach that resulted in seizure of such a large amount of narcotic substances. Our field units, including the Special Task Force, have dismantled the potential supply of almost all types of narcotics in the state. The crackdown was made in line with the government's commitment to make Haryana a drug-free state," he added.

At 713, the maximum cases under NDPS Act were registered in Sirsa, followed by 326 in Fatehabad, 224 in Gurugram, 164 in Kaithal, 162 in Hisar, 157 in Rohtak and 131 in Panipat. There is no place for drugs in our society. "We will continue to speed up our operations against drug traffickers and drug cartels to save the people especially youth from drug menace. Besides, special campaigns are being organized to make the youth aware of the ill effects of drug addiction," he added.

Mr Yadava also urged people to supplement the police efforts in tightening the noose on those involved in drug peddling by sharing information about sale, consumption and use of drugs at mobile number 7087089947, toll-free number 1800-180-1314 and landline number 01733-253023.

There is a considerable increase in maritime trafficking of heroin. On January 6, 2020, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized 35 kg of heroin from a boat off Gujarat (western) coast. On May 20, 2019, 218 kg of heroin was seized from a boat off the Gujarat (western) coast. Again in March 2019, the NCB seized 100 kg of heroin from a boat in Gujarat and in 2017, the seizure of 1445 kg of heroin from MV Henry was again done in Gujarat.

In November 2019, seizure of 224 kg of heroin by Sri Lanka was done on the basis of Indian intelligence inputs. Similarly, in October 2019, seizure of 150 kg of heroin from a boat in Maldives was carried out after India intelligence shared the inputs. In July and August in 2019, seizure of 155 kg heroin from a boat in Sri Lanka, was carried out on the basis of information passed on by India, he pointed out.

Another concern from the drug law enforcement agencies is the trafficking of heroin from Myanmar to India. In March 2019, seizure of 44.5 kg heroin (Rs 180 crore) in Delhi was sourced from Myanmar. In April 2019, again seizure of 50 kg heroin (Rs 200 crore) in Delhi was sourced from Myanmar.

45 JOBS UNDER EX-GRATIA POLICY

Under the welfare initiatives of the state government, Haryana Police gave government jobs to 45 dependents of deceased police personnel under the new ex-gratia policy during 2020. DGP Mr Manoj Yadava said the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, had announced on Police Shahidi Diwas that one family member each of 50 police personnel would be provided government job under the new ex-gratia scheme of the state government.

"We have already given jobs to 45 next-of-kin of our brave officers and Jawans. Out of these, 31 dependents had been appointed constables, 12 clerks and two in class IV jobs. The process to cover the remaining eligible dependents under the new policy is on," he added. It is noteworthy that the state government has implemented a new ex-gratia scheme under which one family member would be provided with a government job in case of the death of an employee before the age of 52 years.

The DGP said that enforcement of Covid lockdown and maintenance of public order was a big challenge for the police in 2020. In order to restrict the spread of the deadly virus, police have taken a series of steps to enforce the lockdown with a humane face since the lockdown was enforced.

"Till now, over 2900 policemen have been infected by coronavirus. Out of these, 2,813 cases have been recovered. However, our 14 police personnel working in the frontlines have succumbed to Covid-19. A proposal regarding the financial assistance of Rs 30 lakh each to the dependents of deceased policemen have been already sent to the government," he added.

NIPPING CRIME IN THE BUD: HARYANA POLICE SHOW THE WAY!

By **RAJEEV RANJAN ROY**

The year 2020 saw the Haryana Police effectively put a check on crimes in the state, a fact which has been underscored by official data. The state registered a decline of 8,278 criminal cases in 2020 as compared to the previous year lodged under different sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Special and Local Laws (SLL).

As per official details, 1,37,051 cases were registered under SLLs and different sections of the IPC between January 1 and December 31 in 2019, which came down to 1,28,773 during the corresponding period of 2020, thus registering a decline of 8,278 cases.

Maintaining law and order, effective prevention and detection of crime, better investigation, providing a safe and secure environment to women and weaker sections of the society have always been among the top priorities of the state police. The Haryana Police, which is considered as one of the best police forces in the country, has taken a lot of initiatives to further improve policing in the state. Its intelligence wing is also rated among the best in the country.

Monitoring of cases involving crime against women, taking speedy action on such complaints, stern action against those involved in drug-peddling and constant pressure on the police officers to improve their performance have contributed significantly in making the difference at the grassroots level. A special drive to nab the most wanted, proclaimed offenders and bail jumpers in different districts also made a difference.

Given the fact that drug peddling has a direct link with criminals, the Haryana Police adopted a co-ordinated approach in dealing with the drug menace. From the support of the civil society to every other stakeholder, the state police did a commendable job in ensuring that common people could come forward and help the police with any information against the drug peddlers to save the younger generation from the ill-effects of drug addiction.

"We are also motivating the youth through painting contests, awareness rallies and other modes to refrain from using drugs. It is the duty of every citizen to contribute to creating awareness among the masses, especially the youth, to say no to drugs," said DGP Mr Manoj Yadava.

To facilitate better interface with the people, the Haryana Police have launched the official Twitter account of the DGP Haryana to connect with various sections of society, share important information about daily activities, and create awareness about crime prevention strategies.

The DGP said that information shared on his official Twitter account would be related to topics like cybercrime, economic offences, road safety, and crime against women and children, etc. The people can follow @dgpharyana to receive the latest updates and information.

"The essential idea behind making my debut on Twitter is to harness the extensive following of social media to reach out to the common public for sharing crime prevention strategies and to make them aware about various pro-public initiatives of Haryana Police. However, if a citizen has a problem or a complaint, I would request them to lodge it online on the HarSamay portal of Haryana Police where they can also track the progress of the disposal of their complaints," Mr Yadava.

The year ahead

During the year 2021, the DGP said the Haryana Police would focus on introducing new technologies for further strengthening professional policing. He expressed the hope that all ranks of Haryana Police would further bring a positive change in their behaviour to make better connections with the public. This will also help in strengthening the police-public-relations in the society, besides creating positive public perception with respect to the competence and commitment of the State police force.

TACKLING CYBER CRIME

To comprehensively deal with various kinds of cybercrimes, the Haryana Police are in the process of establishing a Regional Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (R4C) in the state. The DGP said that it would assist in enhancing capability in cyber investigations and act as a nodal point to contain the menace. A proposal to establish R4C has already been sent to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Cybercrime has emerged as a major challenge for the police. Increased use of technology due to the Covid pandemic in recent times has also led to sharp rise in cybercrime incidents.

Key points

- Crime prevention and detection and law and order maintenance
- Constant vigil on bus-stands, railway stations, hotels, dhabas, dharamshalas, taxi-stands, malls, markets and other crowded places
- Due respect to the general public to promote trust and confidence of the people in police.
- Efforts to redress the grievances of common citizens whenever they come with hope.

Photograph By **Vinay Malik**

CM HAILS MRS KHANDELWAL'S POETIC SKILLS

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

All poems by Mrs Dheera Khandelwal, Additional Chief Secretary, are composed in a language which is touching, interesting and inspiring, said the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, while releasing her two new poetic collections titled 'Megh Mekhla' and 'Reshmi Rassiyan' at a programme organized by the Haryana Sahitya Akademi.

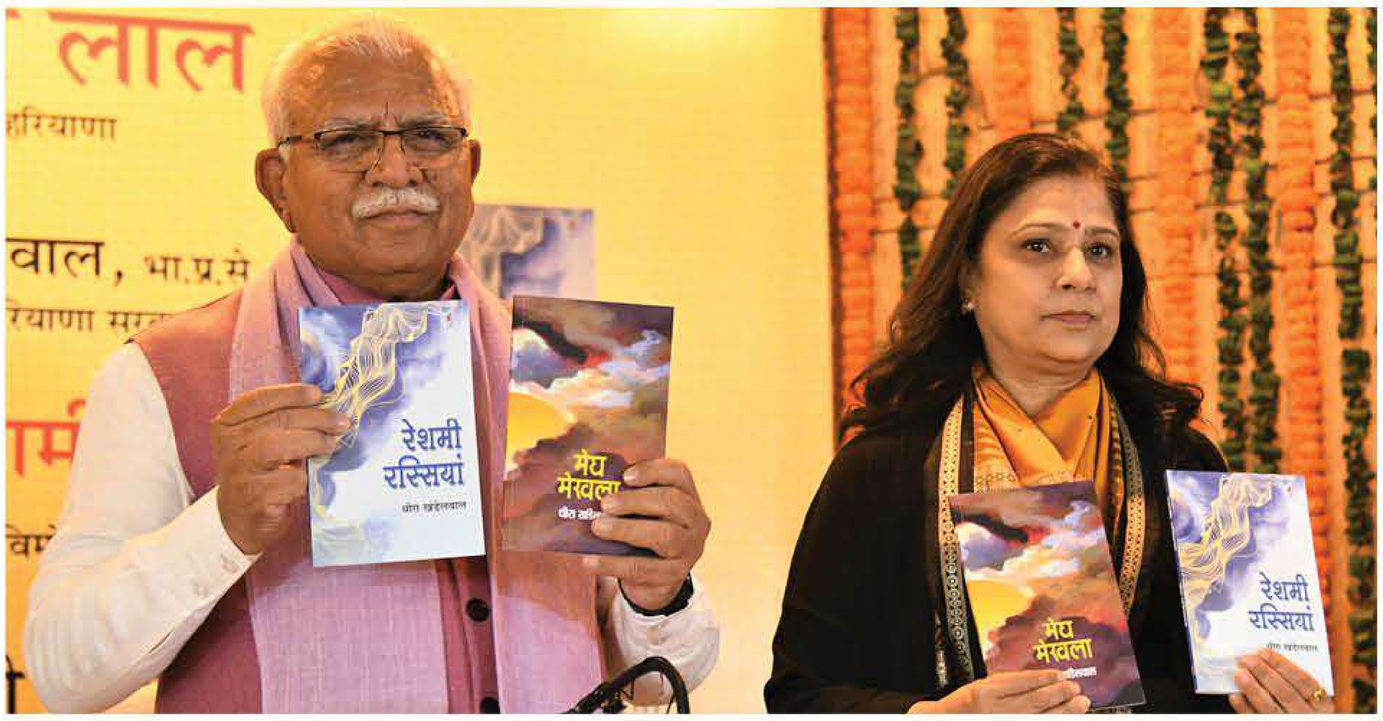
The Chief Minister said the art of compressing as many expressions as possible in a few words could be learned from Mrs Khandelwal. All her poems are written in a touching linguistic style, which is interesting and inspiring. It is truly an admirable task to pen down the imagination in limited words. "Almost all lines in her collection are kindred and touching and these pearls, which come out of the deep depths of her mind, excite the readers to the inside," he said.

While paying rich tributes to great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary, the Chief Minister said the release of poetic collections of Mrs Khandelwal on this day assumed special significance as from this year, it has been decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Netaji as 'Parakram Divas.'

Mrs Khandelwal is not only a competent and skilled officer but also a sensitive writer. She specializes not only in choosing topics from the vast store of life but also taking these topics to the final stage with great success through simple words and interesting statements, Mr Manohar Lal said. Prior to this, her four collections of poems titled 'Mukhar Maun,' 'Sanjh Sakare,' 'Khyalon Ke Khalihan,' 'Antar Aakash' and two Haiku collections titled 'Taaron Ki Taraf' and 'Manmukur' have also been published.

Litterateur is extremely sensitive to the pain and suffering of common people. However, when an officer is also a poet or litterateur, he or she can get to know the grief and pain of the general public more thoroughly and also try to overcome it. "We have full respect for the writers and are determined to encourage the creation of litterateurs in the state," the Chief Minister added.

Photographs By **Vinay Malik**



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, releasing two new poetic collections titled 'Megh Mekhla' and 'Reshmi Rassiyan' of Additional Chief Secretary, Mrs Dheera Khandelwal, at a programme organized by Haryana Sahitya Akademi in Chandigarh

WINDOW ON SPORTS

5 indigenous games in Khelo India-2021

By **SHAGUN KAPOOR**

Preparations are afoot for the coming Khelo India Games-2021. A meeting was recently held under the chairmanship of Haryana Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Mr Sandeep Singh. Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr Yogendra Chaudhary and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Khelo India Youth Games-2021 is being considered to be held in November this year, in which total 25 sports competitions and five indigenous games will be included. Moreover, on the request of the Haryana government, handball has been included in these games instead of lawn ball.

According to the Sports Minister, the best arrangements will be put in place by the government for these games. Also, the final decision regarding the competition venues will be taken after consulting the competition managers of the respective sports, he added.

2021 KHELO INDIA YOUTHS GAMES
PANCHKULA, HARYANA

CAMPUS CORNER

CCSHAU holds 5-day training camp

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

Taking a new initiative to ensure that Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates can become self-reliant and start their own works, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU) organized five-day training camp where Principal Scientist, Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Dr SS Dahiya highlighted the research work being done in the institute as a special guest. The training was also imparted to 30 candidates in the camp.

Dr Dahiya further said that men and women of rural areas can earn good income by rearing buffaloes and doing the business of selling milk. Furthermore, the profits of the business can be enhanced by gaining technical knowledge regarding products made from milk, he added.

HSTES enrolments up 16 per cent

By **SHAGUN KAPOOR**

Despite the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the state of Haryana has recorded a remarkable increase of 16 per cent in the enrolment in government polytechnics and eight per cent increase in the government aided polytechnics for the current session as compared to the last year. An official spokesperson told Haryana Review that the government technical institutions in the state including 37 government polytechnics and four government aided polytechnics have managed to make around 90 per cent admissions for the session 2020-21.

The Department of Technical Education while maintaining this tempo has decided to reward 17 principals of the government technical institutions and 14 officers or officials of the Haryana State Technical Education Society (HSTES) with letters of appreciation, he added. He further informed that in the academic session 2017-18, a total of 9,017 students took admission in the government polytechnics. In 2018-19, total enrolment went up to 10,607. For the 2019-20 session, 9,165 students were enrolled. In 2020-21, a total of 12007 students took the admission.

Moreover, the department took an extraordinary initiative for the differently abled students (speech and hearing impaired) to study various polytechnic courses at the Government Polytechnic, Sector 26, Panchkula. For the benefit of these students, no admission and tuition fee has been charged and facility of interpreter in Indian sign language has also been provided for better understanding of the curriculum. Also, the diploma course in computer engineering and architectural assistantship has been started with 15 seats in each branch and 100 per cent admissions have been achieved, he added.

EDITORIAL TEAM

STAFF WRITER
Shagun Kapoor

ASSISTANT STAFF WRITER
Abhilasha Kapoor

LAYOUT & DESIGN
Monika Modak

PHOTO JOURNALIST
Vinay Malik

DIGITAL & IT SUPPORT
Vikas Dangi

EDITED AND PUBLISHED for the Haryana Government by Mr P C Meena, IAS, Director General, Information, Public Relations & Languages Department. **CONSULTING EDITORS:** Parveen K Modi, Rajeev Ranjan Roy and Ajay Bhardwaj.
ISSUED from Samvad, Room No 314, 2nd Floor, Mini Secretariat, Sector-1, Panchkula (Haryana). (**Mailing Address:** SCO 23 (FF), Sector 7, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh. Phone 0172-5055971, 5055977)
PRINTED AT: Delhi Press Patra Prakashna Pvt. Ltd. PSPC Press 50, DLF Industrial Estate, Faridabad - 121003 (Haryana).