

Haryana Review

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

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AMID EXCISE BUOYANCY**
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CORONA TRACKER

PEOPLE VACCINATED - 36,17,194 | SAMPLES TESTED - 71,64,253 | PATIENTS DISCHARGED - 3,46,304 | RECOVERY RATE - 81.61% | POSITIVITY RATE - 5.95% | FATALITY RATE - 0.89%

ON APRIL 26, 2021

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Haryana to set up two 500-bed Covid hospitals

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

In order to combat the sudden surge in Covid cases, the Haryana government has started work on setting up two 500-bed Covid hospitals in Panipat and Hisar.

Additional 650 beds are being arranged at PGIMS, Rohtak, while 1250 beds are being arranged in different medical colleges of the state.

In Panipat, the Covid hospital is being set up close to the oxygen plant. In the first phase 250 beds will be made operative within the fortnight.

In Hisar, another 500-bed Covid hospital will be set up which would become functional within three to four weeks.

In Faridabad, the state government has taken over the Gold Fields Institute of Medical Sciences and

Research to start a hospital with an arrangement of 100 oxygen beds.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, directed the officers concerned to purchase additional available oxygen tankers and set up oxygen concentrators system as per the requirement, besides the quota of oxygen allocated by the Central Government.

Haryana Chief Secretary, Sh. Vijai Vardhan has directed the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts of the state to identify and keep ready two or three marriage palaces, banquets or other big spaces in their respective districts in view of the increasing cases of COVID-19, so that they can be used in case of emergency.

The Chief Secretary, at a meeting of the state-level Crisis Coordination Committee directed every district to have a committee of high-level

officers in order to ensure proper supply of oxygen to all government and non-government hospitals in the district as per requirement.

In an effort to ensure a regular and adequate supply of vaccines the state government has constituted a three-member committee to suggest a roadmap for the new vaccine policy announced by the Centre. Under the new policy vaccine, manufacturers will supply 50 per cent of their doses to the Centre and the rest to the states.

The vaccination drive in the state has meanwhile intensified. More than 37 lakh people have been vaccinated while the state government has prepared a plan to beef up vaccine supplies from May 1 when people below 45 would also be entitled to get vaccinated.

State gets cracking to ensure oxygen supplies - Pg 2



Towards circular economy

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

Haryana is fast emerging as a role model for circular economy in the country, thanks to a slew of initiatives and policy interventions of the Manohar Lal Government. Circular economy, a concept adopted by many developed countries, means an economic approach aimed at converting waste into resources to facilitate perennial and uninterrupted use of resources to spur growth.

This concept not only marks a paradigm shift in approach and outlook but also emphasizes a comprehensive view of products and processes to secure untold multi-pronged economic and ecological benefits, giving the economy and the GDP a decisive push.

On the quiet, Haryana is making the production systems adopt practices revolving around the principles of circular economy. The state's norms on plastic waste management, e-waste rules, construction and demolition waste management and metal-recycling policy rank among the sure and steady steps on the road to circular economy.

Initiatives are being taken to address the challenges in the utilization of waste as a resource, and to evolve a perspective on the recycling industry in the state



These will not only help reduce resource dependency but also lend competitiveness. Besides substantial annual benefits, the circular economy spells significant reduction in congestion and pollution, which have a positive bearing on growth.

Initiatives are being taken to address the challenges in the utilization of waste as a resource, and to evolve a perspective on the recycling industry in the state. The areas of focus include municipal solid waste and liquid waste, scrap metal - ferrous and non-ferrous, electronic waste, lithium ion batteries, solar panels, gypsum, toxic and hazardous industrial waste, used oil waste, agriculture waste, tyre and rubber recycling, and end-of-life vehicles. Increased manufacturing and changing consumption patterns will generate more employment and increase in per capita income.

The Haryana Government is all set to mark a paradigm shift in its architecture by allocating an untied fund of Rs 8,585 crores as the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF). To further improve outcomes and bring in more synergy, allocations of budget 2021-22 has been done by clubbing departments in specific sectoral areas.

Thematic integration of different departments would facilitate delivery of expected results through co-ordination and convergence among relevant departments contributing towards common goals.

OWNER, IF IN LEGAL POSSESSION OF CIVIC PROPERTY FOR 20 YRS

Cabinet decides to monetise assets

By PARVEEN K MODI

It is a decision that enriches the municipal bodies in Haryana but does not render the possessors of some municipal properties any poorer. In fact, it turns them into owners.

In what is being billed as a win-win situation for both, while the decision to monetise assets will help fill the near-empty coffers of municipal bodies, it will make such small shopkeepers and other pattedars as are in justified possession of municipal properties for 20 years or more, their rightful owners.

Culling opportunity out of a crisis, the state Cabinet, at its meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on April 22, 2021, decided to monetise assets by bringing a policy called 'Policy for sale of Shops/Houses by Municipal Bodies' for the sale of such shops/houses owned by municipal bodies as are in justified possession of entities other than municipal bodies.

Under the policy, shops/houses and other properties of municipal bodies which have been assigned to persons (other than the municipal bodies) for a period of 20 years or more, shall be converted into properties belonging to such persons, or shall be transferred in the ownership possession of such persons, and shall be sold to such persons.

Notably, there are a large number of properties in the shape of shops/houses which, though presently owned by municipal bodies but are in the possession of entities/individuals other than municipal bodies for a period of 20 years or more.

Realisation has gained traction that the municipal bodies find managing such properties difficult, particularly in view of the fact that the ownership/possession of such properties has, in several cases, changed hands on numerous occasions and the civic bodies lack authentic documentation in this regard.

Further, several civic bodies are unable to even recover rentals of such properties. On careful consideration, it has been decided to transfer the ownership of these properties to such persons as are currently in justified possession of these properties.

Under the policy, where the entire structure constructed by the civic body or its predecessor is raised on the land and the land is to be transferred to a single occupier (irrespective of the number of floors constructed) the base rate would be the chargeable price.

Haryana sheds Covid cess amid excise buoyancy

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

Haryana has decided to do away with the Covid cess on the sale of liquor that was imposed last year for generating additional revenue in view of the pandemic.

Under the new Excise policy (2021-22), which has been approved by the Cabinet, in view of the ongoing pandemic, the sale hours of retail outlets of liquor have been re-fixed in rural areas from 8 am to 11 pm from April to October and from 8 am to 10 pm from November to March. In case of urban areas, sale hours will be from 8 am to 12 am (midnight) throughout the year.

The duration of excise policy for the year 2021-22 would now be from May 20, 2021 to May 19, 2022 and the liquor vends shall be allotted for a period of one year (365 days).

- No Covid cess on liquor sale
- Excise revenue up by 6.69 per cent
- Excise growth likely to go up by 15 per cent

Under the new policy marginal increase has been proposed in the minimum retail sale prices of liquor whereas export duty on country liquor, IMFS and beer



has been reduced. No change has been made in the fee structure of bar licenses. PET (Plastic) bottles shall not be allowed for bottling of IMFL and Metro Liquor.

In spite of life being put out of gear in a big way due to the pandemic that has hit the economy as well the overall collection from excise notched an increase by about Rs 450 crores. During the financial year 2020-21 it was Rs 6,792 crore as against collection of Rs. 6361 crore in the preceding financial year.

Despite complete lockdown till the first week of May, 2020 and overall economic slowdown for major part of the year 2020-21, excise revenue during the financial year 2020-21 has witnessed growth of 6.69 per cent. Since, the period of allotment of retail vends for 2020-21 will come to an end on May 19, 2021, the growth in excise revenue for policy year 2020-21 is likely to reach 15 per cent.

Cabinet okays policy on transfer of municipal lands

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, in Chandigarh on April 22 approved the policy for transfer of municipal lands by charging consideration.

The policy may be called 'Policy for transfer of Municipal Lands by Charging Consideration.' It will come into force on the date it is notified by the Government.

This policy would apply to the categories of properties/persons, where due to exigencies or otherwise, no approach road is available to the land owned by private individuals or entities.

In such cases, where no approach road is available to land owned or, as the case may be, held on lease for a minimum period of 30 years or more, by private individuals or entities and it is possible to provide approach access through the land owned by the respective municipal body, the body shall provide land for being utilized for the purposes of constructing approach road (rasta) against the consideration equal to the market rate of the said land which is proposed to be transferred.

Such transfer cannot be claimed as a matter of right and the decision of the government, purely on the discretion of the government, on all aspects related to the transfer including shall be final.

POLICY TO HELP CHILDREN

Reiterating its commitment for the upliftment of every abandoned and surrendered children, Haryana Cabinet also approved 'HARIHAR' (Homeless Abandoned and Surrendered Children Rehabilitation Initiative Haryana) policy for providing employment, educational and financial benefits to abandoned and surrendered children, who have completed the age of 18 years from the Child Care In-

stitutions of the state and were abandoned before the age of five years or surrendered before the age of one year.

The aims and objectives of the Policy includes to provide Jobs on compassionate grounds and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) status to abandoned and surrendered children, who were admitted to Child Care Institutions before the age of five years and who have completed the age of 18 years in Child Care Institutions, up to the age of 25 years, and who possess the required qualification.

UNINSTALLATION OF TOLL

Haryana Cabinet also approved the proposal of Public Works (B&R) Department for un-installation of toll on Punhana to Lakarpur, Sri Singalheri, Thenkri, Jalagarhi, Ranota-Manota up to Rajasthan border at 12.65 km in Nuh district. The decision regarding un-installation of this toll plaza has been taken because the annual depart-

mental collection of tax is just Rs 60 lakh only against the minimum mandatory amount of Rs one crore per annum for a toll point to qualify for installation. Besides this, the Cabinet has also approved another proposal of the department for shifting of toll collection point from its present RD of 6.000 to 7.500 of Toll Plaza on Hodal-Nuh-Patauda-Pataudi road.

MINERAL CONCESSIONS

The Cabinet approved the Amendment in the 'Haryana Minor Mineral Concession, Stocking, Transportation Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2012' and 'Haryana District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2017.' These rules may be called the 'Haryana Minor Mineral Concession, Stocking, Transportation Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining (Amendment) Rules, 2021' and 'Haryana District Mineral Foundation (Amendment) Rules, 2021.'

State gets cracking to ensure oxygen supplies



By AJAY BHARDWAJ

ber of the control room would be 0172-2740833.

In many ways, a war has been declared on Covid which has burst out in its second phase more ferociously. An immediate task for the state government has been to ensure that the supplies of oxygen for the patients do not run dry and for this Chief Minister Manohar Lal, after about half a dozen emergency meetings, has put the entire administrative machinery on its toes.

While a Haryana Oxygen Control Room has been set up at the Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh, the entire administrative machinery has been geared up to increase the production of medical oxygen as well as diverting industrial oxygen for medical use. The control room would ensure an adequate and uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen within the state.

Besides, the Control Room is mandated to perform several vital functions including ensuring safe movement of oxygen tankers from manufacturing plants to the concerned districts, and to ensure each district is informed of daily allocation as issued by the Health Department.

The control room would map oxygen manufacturing plants and monitor their transition from industrial oxygen to medical use. A Whatsapp group comprising Deputy Commissioners, HODS and Administrative Secretaries has been created to ensure that timely updates are shared by all officers concerned.

According to an official spokesperson, the contact num-

The nodal officers at the control room would be Vijayendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, for monitoring and coordination of proper oxygen supply in the State.

Besides this, the state government has also deputed three IAS and six ICS officers in the State Oxygen Control Room, to assist the Nodal Officer in monitoring and coordination of oxygen supply in the State.

The vaccination drive in the state has meanwhile intensified. More than 35.14 lakh people have been vaccinated while the state government has prepared a plan to beef up vaccine supplies from May 1 when people below 45 would also be entitled to get vaccinated.

One of the major consoling factor in the ongoing pandemic crisis has been that the fatality rate continues to remain below one per cent. Last week, in fact, it dropped to 0.90 per cent with the recovery rate going up to 83.19 per cent.

The state government has made provision for 41,707 bedded quarantine facilities in dedicated Covid care centres.

Officials said more than 79.02 lakh persons have already downloaded Aarogya Setu App in Haryana even as more than 60 mobile health teams have already been formed to check health status regarding SARI, ILI etc.

While supplementing the efforts of the health department, the Department of Ayush has also been on its toes and has distributed immunity-boosting medicines to more than 12.19 lakh persons in containment zones.

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, presiding over a Cabinet meeting, in Chandigarh



FORTNIGHT IN RETROSPECT

Don't leave state, CM tells workers

While putting an end to ongoing lockdown rumours, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has said that despite suggestions, no lockdown would be imposed in the state. Hence the migrant workers should stay put and not leave Haryana.

Asking the labourers and workers to remain relaxed and keep doing their work, he said there is no need to panic. Adequate arrangements have been made to ensure that no labourer and worker faces any problem. The state government is standing with every worker working in the state, he added.

"Last year many labourers had faced problem due to the lockdown, but this time keeping the interest of the labourers and workers, especially those working on daily and monthly wages, no lockdown would be imposed in Haryana," said the Chief Minister.

MoU with Hero MotoCorp for park

An MoU was signed between Gurugram Municipal Corporation and Hero MotoCorp in Gurugram for the maintenance and development of Bio Diversity Park in Gurugram in the virtual presence of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal. The Chief Minister also dedicated three projects developed from CSR Fund to the public while chairing a meeting of the Haryana State CSR Trust from Chandigarh through video-conferencing.

The Chief Minister said that cleanliness, environmental protection, water management and youth skilling required attention and skill development of youth is a big concern. The Haryana State CSR Trust has been conceived keeping this in mind.

The agreement with Hero MotoCorp was signed by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Gurugram, Sh. Vinay Partap Singh, and the MoUs were exchanged with the company.

COMING, WAYSIDE AMENITIES TO BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

After highway tourism comes wayside amenities. If the Haryana Government pioneered the former, the latter has been initiated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). Wayside amenities are set to not only generate job opportunities in large numbers but also give a big boost to the local economy of Haryana, which boasts of having one of the best networks of good roads in the country.

According to the plans drawn by the NHAI, wayside amenities will be developed on National Highway 9 near Rohtak, National Highway 08 near Gurgaon, and National Highway 152 (Ambala to Kaithal). Offering on the table fresh-from-farm produce, these will offer the farmers yet another basket to earn from.

According to an NHAI official, some of the sites identified for the development of such amenities are Paharwar, Rohtak, Titoli; Kapas

Hera Estate near Gurugram; Lineomatic Road, near Sector 33, Gurugram, and Kaithal.

The Authority has decided to create 69 wayside amenities in north India – Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh – over the next four to five years, while 94 wayside amenities will come up on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which passes through the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The amenities will include numerous facilities for passengers, including fuel station, electric charging facilities, food court, retail shops, children playing area, clinic, village Haat for local handicraft and so on.

Keeping in view specific requirements of truckers, separate 'truckers blocks' will be developed at large amenities which would offer truck and trailer parking, auto workshop, truckers dormitory, cooking and washing area, toilets with showers, eateries, etc.

Such facilities as electric charging

stations will help in promoting the use of electric vehicles which will help in reducing pollution. The amenities will also help promote the local economy by generating employment opportunities and help local people to market their unique produce/handicrafts at village haats developed at these amenities.

The NHAI has decided to develop world class wayside amenities at more than 600 locations across 22 states along the national highways in the next five years. Out of these, 130 are targeted for development in 2021-22. As per plan, wayside amenities will be developed every 30-50 km along the current and upcoming highways and expressways.

The NHAI will develop these wayside amenities across the country with a combined area of over 3,000 hectares. These will offer huge opportunities for investors, developers, operators and retailers. Currently, the NHAI is offering wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode for development and operation of the existing highways.

- All green field, brown field national highway projects will be provisioned to have wayside amenities and logistic parks.
- Monetization plan for development, real estate consultants have been engaged for designing amenities after studying local suitability.
- The wayside amenities will not only go a long way in making highway travel more convenient for commuters but will also catalyze the rural economy
- With ease of travel by private cars and tourist buses, tourism would get a big boost.
- Wayside amenities will have a dedicated corner for retail outlets for farm produce supplied by FPOs
- Wayside amenities will prove to be a catalyst in transforming the countryside economy and contribute significantly to the overall growth of the economy.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

Haryana Government's Initiative for Farmers' Crop Procurement

For more information
Toll Free No.
1800-1802060
Websites
<https://ekharid.haryana.gov.in>
<https://fasal.haryana.gov.in>

Remaining Farmers can get registered at 'Meri Fasal-Mera Byora' Portal on 5-6th April

Registered Farmers will get message through mobile

Saturday & Sunday are specified for Farmers who are unable to reach on given days

Prosperous Farmers Our Identity

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister

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POVERTY LINE SET TO LOSE LENGTH IN HARYANA

Plans drawn to take 2 lakh families out of its clutches

By PARVEEN K MOGI

Poverty in Haryana is set to lose its vice-like grip, and to ease, the length, to what is being perceived as a broad assault on the scourge that stalks the Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has launched the Mahayamni Antyodaya Parivar Utham Abhiyan.

The Abhiyan is an ambitious umbrella plan designed to identify and take two lakh poorest families out of the clutches of poverty in two phases of one lakh each in the current financial year.

The goal is economic upliftment of these poorest families which means making each one of these first reach a minimum economic threshold income of Rs 1 lakh, and then Rs 1.5 lakh per annum. This is to be achieved by passing all the levers, turning the flow of the benefits flowing from different social welfare schemes launched by the state government towards them, and going beyond to start new ones, if required.

Four different windows of opportunities are set to be opened for these identified families to enable them to cross the poverty line. These are self-employment, contractual employment, private employment, and skill development training.

The Abhiyan will draw verified data from the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) and identify the poorest two lakh families in the state.

Not that the Abhiyan will com-

been made the Nodal Department for implementation.

A package of measures ranging from skilling to wage employment has been woven into the fabric of this umbrella mission encompassing various social welfare schemes. Mapping of the Families at the lowest end of the socio-economic ladder will guide which measures are to be applied to which family as per its present condition, capability and capacity.

“Each department of the state government will practice schemes implemented by them for upliftment of the identified poorest families. By 2025, if we are together in implementing the Abhiyan, I hope to see no family in the state living below the poverty line”, says the Chief Minister.

OPTIONS NEARER HOME

Keeping their convenience in mind, these families will be provided livelihood options nearer home as it will be difficult for them to migrate to other districts as it involves huge cost. Once one lakh poorest families are successfully uplifted in the first stage, the government will identify the next lot of poorest one lakh families, and work for their economic upliftment.

“Not that the Abhiyan will com-



Each department of Haryana Government will practice schemes implemented by them for upliftment of the identified poorest families in the state. By 2025, if we are together in implementing the Mahayamni Parivar Antyodaya Utham Abhiyan, I hope to see no family in the state living below the poverty line. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister

to a close after two lakh families are uplifted. It will be extended to all vulnerable sections of the society. The effort at the ground level will be supplemented by an Awareness Generation Campaign throughout the state to make people aware of the broad contours of the plan.

This Abhiyan will be an umbrella mission encompassing all social welfare schemes of the government to identify the scheme or set of schemes to supplement the upliftment of each identified family.

Each department will practice schemes implemented by them for upliftment of the poorest families, to ensure that they reach a minimum economic threshold of Rs 1 lakh per annum in the first stage, and subsequently Rs 1.5 lakh per annum.

Dedicated machinery both at the state and district level will ensure execution, tracking and monitoring of the scheme. These families will be tagged with all schemes of the government. Finally, youth will be selected as beneficiaries.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any prospective beneficiary should be a member of the ‘Antyodaya Parivar’, should not be in any kind of employment at the time of offer of employment/self-employment.

Task Force to oversee implementation

Implementation of the Abhiyan will be overseen at two levels. A state level task force under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary will be set up to oversee its implementation at the state level. The force will include administrative secretaries of Employment, Skill Development & Industrial Training, Rural Development, Urban Development, Industries, Labour, Welfare of SC & STs, Citizen Resources, Information Departments and also Director, IMA, Rohtak.

Similarly, a district level task force will be set up under the chairmanship of the deputy commissioner concerned with district employment officer being the convener. It will include representatives of all concerned departments, including banks to effectively implement this plan in the field.



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, presiding over a meeting regarding Mahayamni Antyodaya Parivar Utham Abhiyan with Additional Deputy Commissioners in Chandigarh. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Mr V Unnabhatla, is also seen in the picture.

THE GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

“The guiding philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi was ‘Reach the feet of the poorest and weakest man you have seen, and ask yourself if this step you contemplate is going to be any use to him. This principle of Antyodaya—economic upliftment of the poorest—is the guiding light for our government”, says Mr Manohar Lal.

A hallmark of the Chief Minister, the Abhiyan flows from his vision to make dramatic interventions in order to realize the goal of Atmanirbhar Haryana through economic upliftment of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

The bill has been set rolling on the Abhiyan unanimously by the Chief Minister in his 2021 Budget speech, the departments concerned have got into the gear, and families are in the process of being identified. Two lakh families will be brought under the canvas of the scheme in two phases, one lakh in the first phase. The report is to ensure that no family in the state remains below the poverty line by 2025.

MAPPING THE FAMILIES

In the first phase, the one lakh targeted families will be mapped in terms of skills, skill gaps, income and other relevant details. This is to make the benefits of various social welfare schemes reach them, and also to get a hang of how and which way each family can be given the required push, enabling it to cross the poverty line.

If some of these families do not fit into any of the existing schemes, special ones will be evolved and tailor-made to suit their needs. The Department of Employment has



TRACKING SYSTEM

A portal for online monitoring and tracking of the targeted Antyodaya Parivar will be developed by C&ED and the Employment Department. Access to this portal will be provided to the social department as well as to all other stakeholder departments to enable them to act and update the data.

Each department of the state government shall implement the Abhiyan by prioritizing the Antyodaya Parivar for benefits of various policies (programmes)/schemes involving any kind of employment/self-employment. The departments shall ensure adequate Budget provisions for their respective schemes for implementation of the Abhiyan.

REDRESSING GRIEVANCES

Provision has been made for redressing the grievances of beneficiaries. The concerned AIC of the district shall be the First Appellate Authority for any beneficiary aggrieved by any action of the stakeholder. The Deputy Commissioners of the concerned district shall be the second and final appellate authority.

PROTECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers/officials engaged in the task will be protected from personal liability. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall be filed against any public servant or any other acting for or doing anything in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of the provisions of this scheme or of any directions made therefor.

POWER TO AMEND, RELAX

The power to interpret, change, amend, revise and remove difficulties in implementation of the Abhiyan shall lie with the department. Any communication regarding interpretation and alteration of the scheme shall be addressed to the Department of Employment.

4 windows of opportunities for identified families

Four windows of opportunities are set to be opened for these identified poorest families to enable them to cross the poverty line and reach the threshold income level of Rs 1.8 lakh per annum.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) created under the National Rural Livelihood Mission and any other government scheme in the rural areas, shall be instructed to include at least one woman belonging to such families. Training in self-employment will be imparted to these families through SHGs and their participation in income generation activities of the SHGs will be ensured.

The Institutional Finance & Credit Control Department will frame a scheme to provide credit guarantee to banks which would extend credit to beneficiaries of such families as per trained in self-employment and show the potential for entrepreneurship. Schemes such as Street Vendor Scheme of the URB Department shall be leveraged to identify, train and support candidates trained in self-employment.

CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYMENT

Under the Outsourcing Policy Part-I as well as Part-II, setting up of a single manpower government agency will be explored, to provide contractual employees across all government departments. Recruitment of departments for contractual employees under the outsourcing policy will be fulfilled on priority from the eligible candidates from the list of poorest households identified.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Industries will ensure that the medium and large industries adopt at least 5 and 50 poorest of poor families, respectively, from the nearby areas to absorb at least one member in job.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Special job roles for such families shall be identified and prepared by Smt Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU). Post-profiling and need assessment, if beneficiaries in the targeted families show the need for skilling, they will be imparted such skills by the SVSU. Certification and assessment under the scheme shall be done by SVSU. Priority will be given to short-term skills which are required in the rural/urban areas like childcare/old age care/givers, domestic help, mason etc.

Soil has the seeds for a healthy farm economy

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

The health of soil has a vital role to play in making agriculture futuristic and doubling farmer's income in a sustainable manner. A special campaign called 'Har Khet Swasth Khet' has been planned in Haryana to focus on soil health and facilitating cropping choices based on the quality of soil.

The programme for collecting and testing soil samples from every acre is going to be vigorous, covering the whole of the state in the next three-four years. This is an effort to provide an end-to-end solution to farming – from soil health, crop choices, inputs, processing and marketing.

Crop diversification is necessary to preserve the health of soil and biodiversity as well. Farmers are being encouraged to sow crops based on the health of the soil. As many as 17 new static soil testing laboratories and 59 mini-soil testing laboratories are being established in grain markets and government buildings to provide door-step soil testing services to farmers. Construction work on buildings for 14 new soil testing laboratories has been completed and work is pace on the remaining laboratories.

Healthy soils are the foundation of the food system. Our soils are the basis for agriculture and the medi-

Healthy soil is a living soil

Healthy soil is a living, dynamic ecosystem, teeming with microscopic and larger organisms that perform many vital functions, including converting dead and decaying matter as well as minerals to plant nutrients; controlling plant disease, insect and weed pests; improving soil structure with positive effects for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improving crop production. Healthy soil also contributes to mitigating climate change by maintaining or increasing its carbon content.

Soil organic matter – the product of on-site biological decomposition – affects the chemical and physical properties of the soil and its overall health. Nutrient exchanges between organic matter, water and soil are essential to soil fertility and need to be maintained for sustainable production purposes. When the soil is exploited for crop production without restoring the organic matter and nutrient contents, the nutrient cycles are broken, soil fertility declines and the balance in the agro-ecosystem is destroyed.

Food availability relies on soils: nutritious and good quality food and animal fodder can only be produced if our soils are healthy living soils. Over the last 50 years, advances in agricultural technology and increased demand due to a growing population have put our soils under increasing pressure. In many countries, intensive crop production has depleted the soil, jeopardizing the soil's productive capacity and ability to meet the needs of future generations.

um in which nearly all food-producing plants grow. Healthy soils produce healthy crops that, in turn, nourish people and animals. Indeed, soil quality is directly linked to food quality and quantity.

Soils supply the essential nutri-

ents, water, oxygen and root support that our food-producing plants need to grow and flourish. They also serve as a buffer to protect delicate plant roots from drastic fluctuations in temperature.

To increase awareness among

farmers as well as science students regarding the importance of soil health management, the government is imparting training to science students for testing soils and water samples and provide these services to farmers as entrepreneurs.

As many as 125 new soil testing laboratories will be established in schools, colleges and technical universities and institutions during 2021-22. In the first phase, 115 government senior secondary schools and colleges have been selected for setting up soil testing laboratories during 2020-21.

"This will benefit farmers on one hand and introduce a unique earn-while-you-learn opportunity to students, on the other. Also, students of agriculture and horticulture universities will have mandatory linkage with field level activities as part of their curriculum," said the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal.

It is worth mentioning that an amount of Rs 6,110 crore has been allocated for 2021-22—Rs 2,998 crore for agriculture and farmers welfare; Rs 489 cr for horticulture; Rs 1,225 cr for animal husbandry and dairying, Rs 125 cr for fisheries; and Rs 1,274 crore for co-operation. The outlay of Rs 6,110 crore for BE 2021-22 indicates an increase of 20.9 per cent over the RE 2020-21 of Rs 5,052 crore.

"We are indebted to our farmers, whose toil and hard work has made Haryana the food bowl of the coun-

- Our current and future food security hinges on our ability to increase yields and food quality using the soils under production
- Holistic production management systems are necessary in order to protect our soils while maintaining high productive capacities
- Numerous and diverse farming approaches promote sustainable management of soils with the goal of improving productivity
- A better understanding of the linkages between soil life and ecosystem function will enable reduction of negative impacts

try. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. We are committed to doubling farmer's income. We are implementing a number programmes with a focus on major areas such as soil health management-integrated nutrient management, pest management; availability of quality inputs, crop diversification, promotion of fruits and vegetables apart from giving a thrust to agricultural marketing," the Chief Minister said.

Soil health management

- Under Soil Health Card Scheme launched on May 19, 2015, Soil Health Cards (SHCs) are to be issued to all farmers.
- During 2015-16 and 2016-17, the target of about 13.42 lakh soil samples to be tested was given by the Centre. All samples were tested.
- 45.21 lakh Soil Health Cards have been issued to farmers.
- About 13.55 lakh soil samples were collected during 2017-18 and 2018-19. Out of these, 41.21 lakh SHCs have been distributed.
- During 2019-20, a pilot project has been started under which holding wise soil samples are to be collected by selecting block wise villages, that is, 122 villages from 122 blocks in 22 districts.
- Under this pilot project 25,605 soil samples have been collected, tested and 23,625 SHCs have been distributed so far.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

'MERI FASAL, MERA BYORA' A BIG DRAW

Ten lakh farmers registered on the portal

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

"Meri Fasal, Mera Byora is a unique programme of the Haryana Government under which farmers are being encouraged to sow crops based on soil health.

As farmers have been caught in the vicious cycle of wheat-paddy it has taken a heavy toll on the quality of soil as much as on the underground water table that has gone down alarmingly in many parts of the state due to overemphasis on paddy cultivation. In the long run, it is also meant to double the farmers' income, say senior officials.

In order to address the dual problem of deteriorating quality of soil and depleting water table the Haryana Government has undertaken this initiative to persuade farmers to take to the diversification of crops in a manner that their income was not hit and the two critical ecological factors of soil and underground water table are taken care of.

The state government launched a special portal for the purpose in which the registered farmers provide details of the crops sown. More than ten lakh farmers have so far registered themselves in the portal. "Farmers registered on the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal will be encouraged to plant crops on the basis of soil health," said a senior officer in the Agriculture Department.

He said about 48 lakh acres of land had been registered on the portal on which the state government has been monitoring the crop cultivation cycle.

For mustard, a total of 3,89,664 farmers have registered 16,20,211

acres of land on the portal whereas for paddy, till the last season, 3,47,808 farmers had registered 18.88 lakh acres of land.

The programme goes hand-in-hand with another unique scheme, Mera Paani, Meri Virasat under which farmers are also being encouraged to come out of the vicious cycle of wheat-paddy.

The government has tasked itself with the replacement of paddy by maize/cotton/bajra/pulses on one lakh hectares of agriculture land in targeted blocks having watertable of more than 40 meters deep.

In addition, paddy cultivation is being restricted in gram panchayat agriculture land with groundwater level above 35 meters.

The identified blocks where the groundwater table is more than 40 meters are Ratia in Fatehabad district, Siwan and Guhla in Kaithal district, Pipli, Shahbad, Babain and Ismailabad in Kurukshetra district and Sirsa in Sirsa district. Blocks, where water levels are above 35 meters, have been identified as Thanesar and Pehowa in Kurukshetra district and Fatehabad and Jakkhal in Fatehabad district.

Under the scheme, farmers would not be allowed to cultivate paddy in any new areas where paddy was not grown the preceding year. On the agricultural lands of gram panchayats in various blocks where the groundwater level is 35 meters, the panchayat would not be permitted to grow paddy.

Additionally, all those farmers who have been operating their tube-well with 50 horsepower electric motors would not be allowed to grow paddy. The farmers who diversify more than 50% of their

paddy area in the identified blocks will be able to sell all their diversified crops to the government at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

It has also been provisioned to install 'Maize Dryer' in related grain markets for reducing the moisture content of maize grain produced by the farmers. Moreover, 85% subsidy will be provided for the installation of the Drip Irrigation System for the alternate diversified crops.

The scheme, in fact, offers a wider choice to the farmers who produce a variety of crops in a given area making sure that their income does not decline.

Haryana's efforts for diversification are not just about farming but also extend to livestock, forestry and fishery sectors. And it is accompanied by the state government's efforts to bring about adequate market reforms, infrastructure development, certain other price-related support mechanisms, higher profitability, and stability in production.

The government has made sure that crop diversification is practised in dry-land areas in order to reduce the risk factor of crop failure. The programmes of crop substitution and crop shift are also being undertaken in areas suffering from some specific soil-related problems.

Though diversification generally indicates a shift from one crop to another crop, it also involves income-enhancing enterprises in addition to the existing ones. In essence, the diversification of commercial crops/ commodities becomes an essential strategy that can increase income in agriculture, minimize risks due to crop failures, and above all, earn foreign exchange.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

Wheat mop-up defies Covid

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

In spite of the dark cloud of Covid-19, the wheat procurement has been inching on close to the target of 80 lakh tonnes with more than 76 lakh tonnes having been already procured.

As many as 7,36,401 J-forms of 4,40,366 farmers had been issued till April 23 whereas an amount of Rs 5,407 crore transferred directly to the account farmers.

Significantly, all the protocols and safety measures related to COVID-19 are being meticulously followed in every mandi and procurement centre.

The procurement, which kicked off on April 1 in Haryana, has been not only hassle-free for farmers but has made sure that their payments were made in time.

All Deputy Commissioners have been authorised to make separate arrangements for the lifting of the crop if the transporter expresses his inability to pick up the crop. However, the Deputy Commissioners have also been directed to ensure that no stocking of the crop is done in the Mandis.

Making sure that the entire operation is carried out expeditiously the government has issued directions to

all concerned that the wheat should be lifted from the mandis on a daily basis so that the crop does not accumulate in the mandis and farmers do not face any difficulty in selling their produce.

Apart from this, the government has appointed senior officers for the inspection of mandis so that there are no obstacles in the procurement work.

Taking a significant step in the interest of Arthiyas, the Haryana Government has also decided to pay 9 per cent interest on the payment made after 15 days of the end of the crop procurement season. With this, about Rs 1.18 crore will be paid as interest to 9828 Arthiyas in the state.

The State Government has decided that those who were paid 15 days after the end of the Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21, (ie after January 1, 2021) will be given the interest of 9 per cent on the delayed principal amount.

Meanwhile, the details of 9828 arthiyas have been obtained from the e-Khareed portal. Prior to pay-

ment, the report received from the e-Khareed portal will be sent to the concerned arthiya and after confirmation on the amount the payment will be transferred to the bank account. He said that with this decision of the state government, an amount of about Rs. 1.18 crore will be paid as interest to the arthiyas. He further said that among these, 6435 Arthiyas associated with the Food and Supplies Department, will be paid about Rs. 63.8 lakh, 3351 arthiyas associated with Haryana Warehousing Corporation will be paid about Rs. 17.21 lakh and interest of Rs. 37.30 lakh will be given to 42 cooperative societies of Hafed.

In view of the Covid crisis, adequate precautionary measures have been taken in the mandis while arrangements have been made for social distancing. An option has been given to the farmers under which 50 per cent farmers will be called by the government and 20 per cent farmers whose crops have been harvested and if they want the government to buy their crops first, can register themselves and tokens would also be issued to such farmers Besides this, Arthiyas have also been authorized to call 30 per cent of the farmers in the procurement centres.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

Sunflower, a symbol of adoration and loyalty, spreads cheer

PHOTOGRAPH BY VINAY MALIK



CAMPUS CORNER

RESEARCH AWARD FOR 21 FROM JC BOSE VARSITY

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

About 21 teachers and researchers of JC Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad, have been honoured with 'Research Award' for promoting research and improving the quality of research work.

Disclosing this, an official spokesperson of the university said that as per University Research Policy, provision of merit certificates and cash prizes ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh for publication of research papers are listed by the university in Science Citation Index (SCI) or Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) Research Journals. Cash awards have been given for 17 selected research papers authored by the faculty and research scholars of the university during 2019-20, he added.

The event was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dinesh Kumar. Prof. Christian Gloggler from HS Ulm University, Germany, a researcher at Mercedes Benz Stuttgart, Germany, was the Chief Guest and Prof. Joachim Ahrens, Head of International Affairs; PFH University Gottingen, Germany, was the Guest of Honour at the award ceremony. The Founder and CEO of Yes Germany, Dr. Gagan Syal, was also present on this occasion.



WINDOW ON SPORTS

Khelo India = 25 sports, 8.5k players, 5 venues

By SHAGUN KAPOOR

The Haryana Government has decided to organise the fourth edition of 'Khelo India Youth Games-2021' for under-18 category in Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Delhi and Chandigarh from November 21 to December 5, 2021. Besides, some BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Games 2021 will also be organized during Khelo India.

The executive committee which met the other day under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Mr Vijai Vardhan, has told the officers concerned to hold the Khelo India Games in compliance with the rules of COVID-19 guidelines.

The OSD, Khelo India, Mr Pan-kaj Nain, told Haryana Review that 25 types of sports would be organized, including five traditional sports such as Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta, Mallakhamba and Yogasana. Players from the



country and abroad will participate in these games, he added.

About 8,500 participants would take part in the 'Khelo India Youth Games-2021'. Apart from this, Sports Expo would also be organized. These games would be organized jointly by the Haryana Government and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

The work of repairing and renovation of the multipurpose hall, ground, track etc. for organizing the games is being done at a rapid pace. Proper arrangements are being made for food and lodging of the players, Mr Nain added.

The Senior Director, Khelo India, Sports Authority of India, Mr Satya Narayan Meena, has assured the executive committee that the SAI would extend full cooperation to the Haryana Government in organizing the Khelo India Games. The Authority is in constant touch with the state government for jointly organizing the grand event.

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