

# Haryana Review

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

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Pulling all stops to save every drop of water

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Rs 193 crore for Haryana as ULB grant

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The Haryana Governor, Mr Bandaru Dattatreya, and the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal lighting a lamp to inaugurate the 35<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Craft Fair 2022, in Faridabad.  
-Photo by Vinay Malik  
(See also PP 2 & 3)

## Haryana offers big relief to NCR farmers

By **Ajay Bhardwaj**

In a major relief to farmers in the National Capital Region (NCR) the Haryana Assembly unanimously passed the Haryana Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2022, to exempt tractors for three years tractors from a rule that bans diesel vehicles older than 10 years in the NCR.

This has been done in the line of assurance given to the House by Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal that the state government would fervently protect the interests of farmers. He promised that the state government within the validity of this Act shall make a policy for phasing out the specified agricultural purpose vehicles from the NCR.

The bill tabled in the House by Transport Minister Mr Mool Chand Sharma seeks to amend the Haryana Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2019.

According to the government, in pursuance of various orders passed by the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court from time to time, there is a complete ban on the operation of diesel vehicles older than 10 years in the NCR. Accordingly, the operation of such vehicles, including specified agriculture purpose vehicles, is not

allowed in the districts of Haryana falling in NCR.

In order to provide temporary relief to the farmers and other affected people residing in the districts of Haryana falling under NCR in respect of the operation of specified agriculture purpose vehicles, the Haryana Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2019 was got notified by the state government on March 18, 2019, having validity of one year from the date of its commencement," read the provisions of the Bill.

The minister said the validity of the Act will be enhanced up to June 30, 2025. "And in this period of time, various policy issues and support for phasing out the specified agriculture vehicles from the National Capital Region are expected to be finalised," Sharma added.

According to the provisions of the Bill, "all notices issued by the state government or any authority for any coercive action against any specified agricultural purpose vehicle only on the ground that such specified agricultural purpose vehicle has been registered for a period of ten years or more, shall be suspended and no coercive action shall be taken from the date of commencement of this Act till June 30, 2025"

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

## CM shows his class and paces

By **Parveen K Modi**

Besides some key legislative measures, the recently concluded Budget session of the Haryana Assembly stands out for two factors. One, the way the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, drew on his rich repertoire of faculties on a number of occasions to have the better of the opposition, and drive home the message. Two, scoring a trend-setting first, the House took the Lok Sabha-patterned committee route to vote on the Budget proposals for 2022-23.

Whether replying to the debate on the Governor's Address, making the desired interventions, or answering the discussions on Governor's Address and the Budget, the Chief Minister was at his compassionate and combative best, rebutting the charges, countering the opposition, and, on

occasions making the demand, taking the fight right into the camp of those across the political aisle.

His words having the support of facts and figures he reeled off with uncanny ability, he exercised a calming and sobering influence whenever he rose to speak. He showed his paces and class while answering point by point the debate on the Governor's Address, and took care to maintain the dignity of the House despite the sweet-sour debate.

His compassionate self came to the fore when the Speaker, Mr Gian Chand Gupta, armed with the consent of the House, suspended Dr Raghubir Singh Kadian, former Speaker, for tearing a copy of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion Bill, 2022, on the floor of the House. After repeated pleadings by Mr Bhpinder Singh Hooda, Leader of the Opposition, for revocation of the suspension,

the Leader of the House showed generosity bowing to true democratic values and traditions. And the suspension was revoked.

His credentials as a deft Finance Minister got underscored when he let fiscal prudence, pragmatism and prioritized spending in key areas, not populism, inform the proposals which sought to put the money where the mouth is.

He blunted the edge of all criticism by dilating on how the debt burden is less than the prescribed percentage; how per capita income is purely an accounting term; how revenue deficit is less than three per cent; and how stepping up capital expenditure by taking loans to promote infrastructure is a good economic principle. He set the floor whenever he held the floor.

The second is a milestone factor. Scoring a trend-setting first, the Assembly toed the committee-

laden path shown by the Lok Sabha to vote the Budget. Eight committees constituted to discuss the budget demands shared their suggestions, most of which were woven into the fabric of the Budget by the state government. This gave out the message loud and clear: the government cares for and respects every view.

Committee-1 suggested a mechanism for monitoring the Budget estimates. It was accepted and an online mechanism will be developed by the Finance Department to facilitate execution. Similarly, Committee-2 recommended that an orientation programme should be started for the MLAs. Necessary arrangements will be made for the same, said Mr Manohar Lal.

Allowing his innate faculties full play, the Budget session of the Haryana Assembly brought out the best in the Chief Minister.

### INSIDE STORIES

#### CM gets COVID-19 Commitment Award

Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal has been honoured with the COVID-19.....

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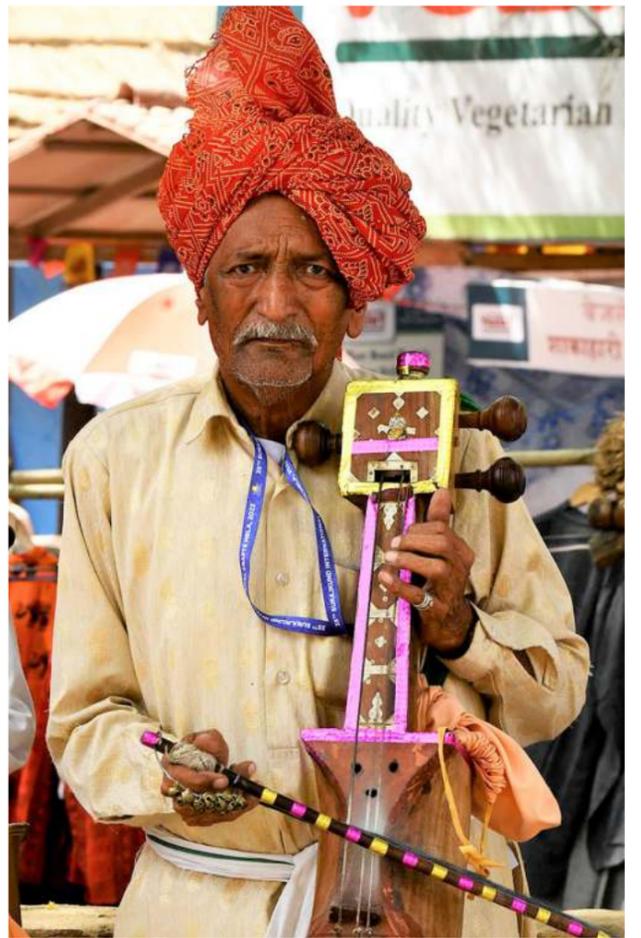
#### KU chair in name of Guru Tegh Bahadur

A state-level function will be held in Panipat on April 3 to mark the celebrations of.....

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# Surajkund Mela through the lense

-Photos by Vinay Malik



# It's Farz ka Budget, not of Karz

CM swears by Antyodaya, reiterates commitment to reach out to last man standing

By Parveen K Modi

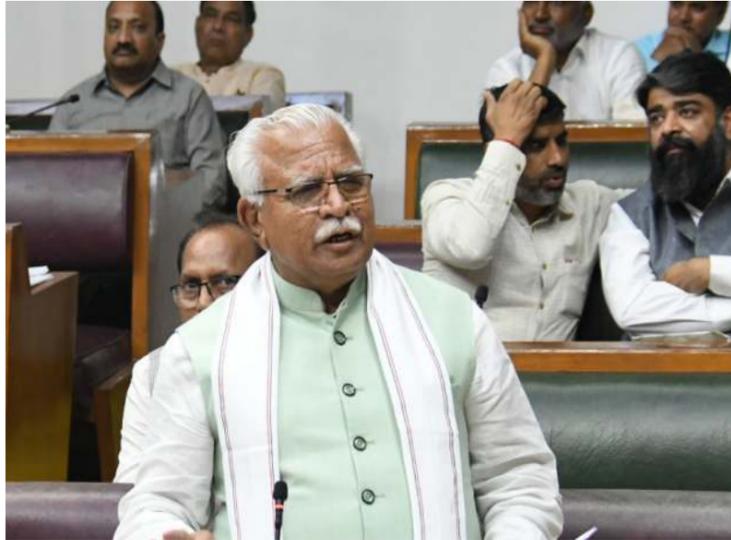
**D**edicated to Antyodaya, the 2022-23 Budget 'is more of a 'Farz' ka Budget than of Karz.' Every eligible beneficiary would certainly get due benefits. Since the poor person has the first right on the government, every possible effort would be made to ensure that benefits of the plethora of state welfare schemes reach the poorest of the poor first.

In stating this while relying on the debate on the Budget in the state Assembly on March 21, 2022, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, killed two birds with one stone. He reiterated the commitment of his government to reach out to the last man in the queue, and also refuted the criticism from across the political aisle that the burden of debt was mounting on the state.

The Chief Minister said in the last two years, due to COVID-19, the pace of development had slowed down, but every possible effort is now being made by the government to constantly maintain this development pace.

"A new initiative of holding a pre-budget meeting was started by our government under which valuable suggestions were sought from all the stakeholders before finalizing the Budget. This time also consultation meetings were held with about 550 people and their valuable suggestions have been included in the Budget," said the Chief Minister.

The committees constituted to



discuss the budget demands have also shared their suggestions, most of which have been incorporated by the state government.

Committee-1 has suggested that a mechanism should be put in place for monitoring the Budget estimates, which has been accepted by the government and an online mechanism will be developed by the Finance Department for the same. Similarly, Committee-2 has also recommended that an orientation programme should be started for the MLAs. Necessary arrangements will also be made for the same," shared Mr Manohar Lal.

Responding to the questions raised by the Opposition regarding the loan figures, Mr Manohar Lal said the Opposition leaders should change their viewpoint whenever

they talk about debt, as the debt increases over time, but economists and NITI Aayog assess the economic conditions healthy going by the debit-to-GSDP ratio.

According to this calculation, the debt should not exceed 25 per cent of GSDP. Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, the state's ratio is 24.98 per cent whereas in Punjab it is 48 per cent, the Chief Minister said. The revenue deficit of Haryana is also less than 3 per cent.

"If we are doing capital expenditure by taking loans and promoting infrastructure, then it is a good thing because infrastructure is considered an investment with a perspective of a bright future. In this Budget, we have made a provision of capital expenditure of Rs 61,057.36 crore," Mr Manohar Lal added.

## None involved in graft 'will be spared'

Haryana Review Bureau

**T**he Chief Minister said that he would not spare anyone found guilty of corruption. Stringent action will be taken against all such violators, whether it is an IAS officer or anyone else.

He was answering a query from the media regarding naming of IAS officers involved in a corruption case of Faridabad Municipal Corporation at a press conference held at the conclusion of the Budget session of the state Assembly. In all, nine cases have been registered in the case which are being investigated by the police or Vigilance.

The Chief Minister said that earlier only colonies built in cities up to 50 per cent were authorized. But now this condition has been removed and colonies built up to 10 to 20 per cent will also be authorized. If such a colony is lying vacant, its development charge will have to be paid to the builder.

Where houses are built, they will have to pay a charge of 5 per cent of the collector rate. Registries done wrongly without NOC under the guise of 7-A between the years 2017 to 2021 have been investigated by the government. "I have announced in

the House that such registries, which took place between 2010 and 2016, will also be investigated", he added.

Responding to a question related to the Chintel Society of Gurugram, he said that structural audit of buildings would be mandatory so that such incidents did not happen in future. The license to Chintel Society was given by the Congress Government in 2007. Many more towers have been built by the same builder.

The investigation of this case has been handed over to the CBI. Case study will also be conducted in case of buildings constructed without occupation certificate.

On the Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, the Chief Minister said vested interests of Congress for the minority seems to have been exposed. A person can change religion as per own wish, but the conversion will not be allowed under any influence.

Strict action will be taken if religious conversion is done under coercion or allurement. Although action is being taken against the accused under the IPC, but in view of the seriousness of the matter, a separate Act has been brought. Before Haryana, many other states have also passed a similar Act.

# A 'Triveni' of tradition, heritage & culture

## Surajkund Mela opens

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

**T**he International Surajkund Crafts Mela epitomizes how multifaceted Haryana's cultural legacy and resilience is. Inaugurated by Governor Mr Bandaru Dattatraya on March 19 in the august presence of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal who presided over the inaugural function, the 35th edition of the Crafts Mela showcases the grandeur of handicrafts and handloom.

"Surajkund Mela is a 'Triveni' of tradition, heritage and culture. Handicrafts and handloom are a part and parcel of global human civilization and culture," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, who presided over

Governor Mr Bandaru Dattatraya in his inaugural address congratulated Haryana and Central governments for organizing the Mela during the ongoing celebrations of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of Independence. Craftsmen, weavers and tourists from the country and abroad throng the holy land of Haryana during the Mela,

which is being organized every year!

"This year thousands of artists, craftsmen and weavers are participating in the Mela. They will get a golden opportunity to display and sell their products. Lakhs of tourists are expected to visit this 15-day long Mela. Through this Mela the bilateral relations with other countries will be further strengthened," said Mr Dattatraya.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said that craft and handloom fairs provide an opportunity to the craftsmen to exchange their artistic interest and art. He said that this year Jammu and Kashmir is the 'Theme State' of the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, while Uzbekistan is participating as the partner nation.

"On one hand, we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of independence and are refreshing the sweet memories of our immortal martyrs and freedom fighters who laid down their lives for Maa Bharati. On the other hand, this wind of spring is inculcating patriotism among every countryman," he said.



The Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, riding a van at the Surajkund Mela. -Photo by Vinay Malik

The Chief Minister, while assuring Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan Embassy Mr Dilshod Akhatov for further strengthening bilateral ties between Haryana and Uzbekistan, said: "Haryana believes in a heart to heart connect as we are

not limited to business to business, or government to government relationship."

He said that this Mela also presents an excellent opportunity to witness the rich culture and the traditional art forms of Uzbekistan. India and Uzbekistan share strong

cultural and diplomatic ties. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a lot of nervousness about organizing this Mela but "I really appreciate the efforts of all the officers concerned for making arrangements for ensuring to make this Mela a big success," he added.

# Pulling all stops to save

## Overarching policy bets big on use of treated waste water

By **Parveen K Modi**

If there is water, there is life. Water, rightly called the elixir of life by Dr C V Raman, is the most important natural resource on the earth to sustain all forms of life. Given its paramount importance and the hard and harsh reality that it is a limited resource, water needs to be used judiciously.

This hypothesis gets doubly underscored in the context of Haryana where about 60 per cent of the groundwater is brackish and unfit for human consumption. Conscious of the grave reality and great need to address the issues of limited availability of water resources and the quality of water, the Manohar Lal Government has come out with an overarching policy on water conservation with emphasis on reuse of the treated water.

The message woven into the fabric of the policy is loud and clear: mere conservation efforts won't do, we need to treat used water and recycle it for use again at least for non-potable purposes. It aims at maximizing collection of sewage and its treatment, and increasing reuse of the treated water for non-potable applications to reduce dependency on the limited ground and surface water resources.

"Water is a precious resource and the Haryana Government is committed to its conservation, preservation and demand management for future generations of Haryanvis. Guided by the vision of the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, we are making best possible efforts to optimise utilisation of water resources, promote use of treated water, set up rain water harvesting structures and adopt ground water recharging techniques", the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, said.

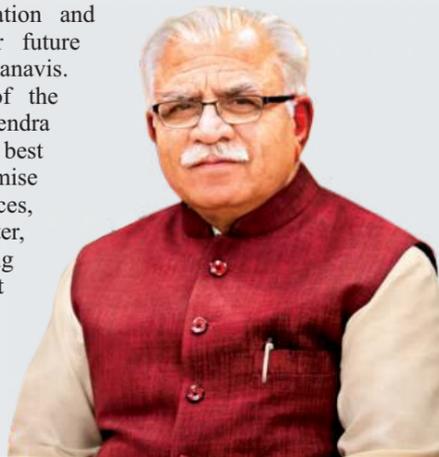
Water conservation, combined with measures to tap more resources to boost supply by setting up check dams and recharge bore wells, and promoting the use of recycled waste water constitute the bedrock of the strategy. Good progress has been made on all these fronts.

The Central Government had launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign to cover all districts in rural as well as urban areas of the country.

Focused interventions under the campaign included intensive

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**Manohar Lal**



rainwater harvesting and water conservation; enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on IT; Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in the remaining districts; intensive afforestation and awareness generation.

With a view to lending financial muscles to this composite effort, a sum of Rs 4,554.39 crore has been allocated to the Public Health Engineering Department in the Budget for FY 2022-23, 33.9 % more than the estimates for the current year.

Countless numbers of Central and state government schemes have been implemented in Haryana to translate the vision of the Prime Minister on water conservation into reality.

### Jal Jiwan Mission

Haryana has successfully implemented the Jal Jiwan Mission of the Central Government and completed the work of providing piped water supply to households in 19 districts. Work in the remaining three districts – Jind, Palwal and Nuh – will be completed very shortly. With this the promise of providing piped water supply to every eligible household two years before the projected timeline of 2024, will be kept.

The state government started the Mahagram Yojana for augmentation of the drinking water supply, laying of sewerage systems and installation of sewage treatment plants. Under this programme, 132 villages have been identified.

### Water Resources Authority

With a view to addressing the problems of water depletion and water-logging in parts of the state, the government has set up Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority which has categorised villages on the basis of the water level. As many as 1,948 villages have been classified as severely stressed groundwater villages. On the other extreme, 85 villages have been classified as severely water-logged villages.

The Authority is preparing a District Water Resources Plan based on the ground water level data. This will help in the preparation and implementation of 'Dwivirshik Jal Prabandhan Yojana' announced in the Budget last year. These district-level plans will be integrated into a

comprehensive state level water plan to ensure optimal use of groundwater and surface water resources.

### Pond Authority set up

Ponds are the traditional source of water in the villages. In order to improve and rejuvenate them, the state government has set up Haryana Talab and Waste Water Management Authority. The Authority has uploaded the data of all the 18,281 ponds on the data management system. Work has been completed on the improvement and restoration of 905 ponds

There are many ponds in which only dirty water keeps accumulating. A three-pond scheme has been started for them. Under this scheme, the water is purified so that it can be used for irrigation.

Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the grant limit on the construction of individual water storage ponds for irrigation of horticultural crops through micro irrigation system has been increased from Rs.75,000 to Rs 7 lakh for ground water recharge.

Boiling things down to essentials, conservation runs parallel to the efforts being made by the Manohar Lal Government to increase water supply both for drinking and irrigation purposes. Water Biennial 2021-2023' is being celebrated in the state to focus on conservation, management, reuse, recharge and recycling of water.

The Water Authority is working hard to put in place a sustainable water resources regime to facilitate a holistic view of the ground and surface water to promote its judicious, equitable and efficient use.



## Plants set up to generate 1

### Haryana Bueau Review

Water conservation will lose meaning if we do not prepare ourselves to treat and use waste water. Policy changes have been made to encourage its use by power plants, industries, irrigation and municipalities for non-drinking purposes to ensure that fresh water resources are conserved.

Sewerage treatment plants and common effluent treatment plants have been set up to generate 1,967

MLD of treated waste water. The recommendations of the Haryana Water Resources Authority on the tariff for use of treated wastewater and the sectors where its use can be mandated are expected shortly.

### Check dams being set up

Inspired by the Prime Minister's remark that "when clouds rain, they rain not only for us but also for the generations to come", the Manohar Lal Government has taken several initiatives to harness the rain water. The Shivalik Hills in the

northern part and Aravalli Hills in southern Haryana constitute major watersheds. A number of water springs and small creeks exist in these hills which carry water during monsoon. To conserve and utilise water run-off, check dams have been planned in Shivalik Hills and Aravalli Hills.

Continuous efforts are being made for the construction of upstream storage dams on Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi tributaries of river Yamuna for improving water supply. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone

# Save every drop of water

## Water bodies mapped; Jal Shakti Kendras set up in all districts

By Parveen K Modi

Haryana has adopted a holistic approach to solving all water related issues. Jal Shakti Kendras which function 24X7 as one-stop knowledge center for all water related information and water related activities, have been set up in all districts of the state.

Proceeding scientifically, Haryana is the only state to have mapped and geo-tagged all water bodies. A total of 37,353 water bodies (23,894 natural and 12,957 man-made) were identified on imagery followed by a village-wise survey. Demarcation using Google-Earth was also done on images, and a total 28,505 water bodies were found.

A total of 16,348.66 km canal/drain network of the state was mapped involving total coverage of 64,044.53 acres. A total of 5,066 structures for rooftop rain harvesting were identified and listed using mobile-based application.

District Water Conservation Plans for each district have been prepared and uploaded on Jal Shakti Abhiyan Central Portal. These incorporate general information on the district, its water profile, water availability, water requirement/demand and strategic action plan for conservation, public education and awareness, and department-wise action plan/strategy.

Haryana is also the only state to have accomplished the task of preparing village-level contour

maps of all districts which have been incorporated in the district water conservation plans. Krishnawati and Dohan rivers have been rejuvenated. Haryana has implemented six major targeted interventions under Jal Shakti Abhiyan-II besides intensive IEC activities in all districts.

Evidences of positive impact of water management activities are published in high impact factor journals, including the Arabian Journal of Geosciences, Journal of Agro meteorology among others.

**Under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan II, the Haryana Government has implemented six major targeted interventions along with intensive IEC activities in all the districts of the state. These include:-**

| Sr. No.            | Name of the Activity  | Expenditure incurred (in lakh) |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.                 | Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting-Check Dam (351), Pond/Tank (10257), Trench (7309), Rooftop Water Harvesting Structure in Public buildings (7436), Rooftop Water Harvesting Structure in Private buildings (2299), Other Rainwater Recharge Structure (Open Well Recharge, Sand Filter for open well recharge) (11052), Other Water Conservation Structures (Bench Terracing, Canal) (10432). | 8160/-                         |
| 2.                 | Renovation of Traditional and other Water Bodies/ Tanks-Traditional Water Bodies Restored (8623).   | 9419/-                         |
| 3.                 | Reuse and Recharge Structures- Soak Pit (23604), Stabilization Pond (99), Other Reuse/Recharge Structure (2218).  | 205/-                          |
| 4.                 | Watershed Development- Gully Plug (72), Percolation Tank (46), Staggered Trenches (2075), Other Watershed Construction Activates (4045).  | 15555/-                        |
| 5.                 | Intensive Afforestation- Intensive Afforestation- Nurseries (3575210), Intensive Afforestation- Plantation (10717215).  | 1479/-                         |
| 6.                 | Awareness Programs by KVK- Farmers training programs by KVKs on Water Use Efficiency and Appropriate Crops (11480), Awareness Programs/Kisan Mela on the theme Valuing Water (15348).   | 500056/-                       |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |   | <b>534874/-</b>                |

### Mera Pani, Meri Virasat

Water conservation strategy spans both rural and urban areas. While farmers are being incentivized to grow other than water-guzzling paddy, saving rain water and reuse of treated water is being emphasized in the urban areas through a number of schemes.

One such landmark scheme is Mera Pani Meri Virasat. Under this initiative implemented in



Mission Mode in Haryana, farmers are incentivized to switch from paddy to other crops.

"A lot of brainstorming was done with farmers, scientists, MLAs and other people associated with the government before formulating the Mera Pani, Meri Virasat scheme, which will be very beneficial for the coming generations in conserving water," says the Chief Minister.

Such farmers as grow crops other than paddy on at least 50 per cent of their paddy area last year by growing alternative crops such as maize, cotton, bajra and pulses, are provided Rs 7,000 per acre as incentive. They are not permitted to cultivate paddy in any new areas where paddy was not grown during last year. Farmers operating tube wells with 50HP electric motors are not allowed to grow paddy.

In order to further incentivise the farmers, the Manohar Lal Government has decided that all diversified crops such as maize, bajra and pulses will be procured at the MSP. Not only this, the government has also promised to provide 85 per cent subsidy for the installation of drip irrigation system in the alternate diversified crops.

### Promoting micro irrigation

Micro irrigation is being

promoted. The government bears 85 per cent of the expenditure on auxiliary infrastructure while farmers have to pay only 15 per cent of the cost. This year, ₹ 1,214 crore has been proposed as subsidy under Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

While steps are being taken to enable the farmers conserve water, avenues are being explored to make more water available for irrigation. For enhancing capacity of the canal network, construction of new Parallel Lined Channel and remodelling of the Western Yamuna Canal, Augmentation Canal, Parallel Delhi Branch, Hansi Branch, Jawaharlal Nehru Canal have been started.

The state government also plans to improve capacity and efficiency of pumping machinery of the lift irrigation system in Rewari, Mahendergarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani districts.

In order to meet the drinking water needs for Nuh and Gurugram districts, the government has decided to construct Mewat Feeder Canal of 200 cusecs capacity and also undertake remodelling of Gurgaon Water Supply (GWS) Channel with capacity of 475 cusecs from the existing capacity of 175 cusecs.

## ,967 MLD of treated water



of the Renuka Dam in December last year. The total storage capacity of these check dams will be about 37.36 million cubic metres (MCM).

With a view to recharging the ground water with rain water, 1,000 recharging bore wells and shafts are being constructed at a cost of Rs.39.66 crore. Target has been set to construct 5,000 recharge bore wells in 2022-23.

Simultaneously, the government has successfully implemented Atal Bhujal Yojana to promote community-led sustainable ground water

management in 1669 Gram Panchayats of 14 districts identified as water-stressed areas. It has been decided to utilize the monsoon water for irrigation. This will benefit farmers in two ways: prevent inundation of the crops and help in irrigating fields when water is required.

For revival of the Saraswati River, an MOU for the construction of Rs 388-crore Adi Badri Dam with storage capacity of 224 hectare meters has been signed with the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

# CM warns pseudo-social NGOs against fraudulent conversions

By **Ajay Bhardwaj**

**H**aryana Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal said that The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, passed by the Vidhan Sabha during the budget session, was aimed at instilling fear among those who resort to fraudulent means for conversions in religion.

The Chief Minister said that the bill in no way stops a person from undertaking a willful conversion but no coercion or deceit would be allowed in such cases. The purpose of this Bill is to control forced religious conversions in the state.

While underlining that many other states have also passed similar bills the Chief Minister said that 127 FIRs had been registered in six districts in the last four years on charges of deceitful conversions. Many more cases of conversion have come to light places like Yamunanagar, Panipat, Gurugram, Palwal, Faridabad.

He said some pseudo-social organizations with a hidden agenda target the vulnerable sections of the society for conversions.

There have also been cases where people marry girls of other religion by misinterpreting their own religion and after marriage, such girls were

forced to convert their religion. Such incidents not only violate the religious freedom of individuals but also harm the socio-religious fabric of our society. To prevent these incidents, The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022 has been passed.

The new law prohibits unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misinterpretation, use of force, threat, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage.

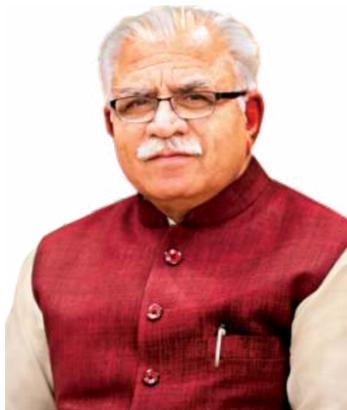
It says that if a person wants to convert voluntarily, he will have to submit a declaration of conversion in the prescribed format to the District Magistrate.

## Regulating human organ transplantation

The Vidhan Sabha also passed the Transplantation of Human Organs (Haryana Validation) Bill, 2022, to ensure that for the removal, storage or transplantation of human organs or tissues or both of the donor, the hospital will have to inform the Human Organ Removal Centre in writing.

The chief minister said that there is no human organ transplant facility in Haryana so far. But now kidney transplant facility will start in PGIMS Rohtak after the passing of The Transplantation of Human Organs (Haryana Validation) Bill.

The bill says there must be a sufficient warrant for the human organ to be removed for medical purposes only by a registered



medical practitioner. Where the donor or the recipient being near relative is a Foreign National, it shall be necessary to obtain prior approval of the Authorisation Committee before the removal or transplantation of human organ or tissue or both.

If the recipient is a foreign national and the donor is an Indian national, the Authorisation Committee will not approve such removal or transplantation unless they are near relatives. Similarly, no human organ or tissue or both shall be removed from the body of a minor (child) before his death, except as prescribed for the purpose of

transplantation. No human organ or tissue or both shall be removed for transplantation from the body of a mentally challenged person before his death.

## Public Utilities Bill

The Vidhan Sabha also passed The Haryana Prohibition of Change of Public Utilities Bill, 2022.

The Chief Minister said that 50 years ago people used to donate or gift their land to the government for developmental schemes. These donations and gifts were given with verbal consent, nothing was given in writing, he added.

"Today their generations go to court and claim that the donated or gifted land belongs to them and public utility properties built on these lands should be dismantled. Therefore giving relief from such litigations, The Haryana Prohibition of Change of Public Utilities Bill, 2022 has been brought," added Sh. Manohar Lal.

## Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran bill

The Vidhan Sabha also passed the Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (Amendment) Bill, 2022 under which now Chief Executive Officer, Additional Chief Executive Officer and Joint Chief Executive Officer can be appointed in the Haryana Kisan

## Other bills passed

The Haryana Mechanical Vehicles (Levy of Tolls) Amendment Bill, 2022

The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022

The Haryana Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2022,

The Haryana Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022

The Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Bill, 2022

The Haryana Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2022

Kalyan Pradhikaran

The chief minister said that the CEO will be either an officer of the rank of Principal Secretary or an eminent person from the agriculture sector or any person who has been conferred upon a national level award in the field of agriculture. An Agriculture Advisory Council will also be formed, which will have 22 members and a Member Secretary.

# Rs 193 crore for Haryana as ULB grant

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

**T**he Central government has released Rs 193.50 crore as grants to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Haryana. The grants are meant for sanitation, solid waste management and attainment of star ratings as developed by the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoH&UA), and drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling. In the current financial year, the Government of India has released a total amount of Rs 10,699.33 crore so far to the States as grants to the non-million plus cities (NMPCs). These grants are released by the Union Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of MoH&UA.

According to the Union Finance Ministry, the 15th Finance Commission in its report for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has divided the ULBs into two categories: Million-plus urban agglomerations or cities excluding Delhi and Srinagar, and all other cities and towns with less than one million populations. The 15th Finance Commission has



recommended separate grants for them.

Out of the total grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission for NMPCs, 40 per cent is basic (untied) grant and the remaining 60 per cent is tied grant. Basic grants (untied) are utilised for location specific felt needs, except for payment of salary and incurring other establishment expenditure. On the other hand, tied grants for the NMPCs are released for supporting and strengthening the delivery of basic services.

Out of the total tied grant, 50 per

cent is earmarked for 'sanitation solid waste management and attainment of star ratings as developed by the MoH&UA. The remaining 50 per cent is tied to 'drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.'

The tied grants are meant to ensure availability of additional funds to urban local bodies over and above the funds allocated by the Centre and the state for sanitation and drinking water under various centrally sponsored schemes and provide quality services to citizens. Since ULBs are important

institutions of self governance, providing physical infrastructure and civic amenities in urban areas, the state government has taken a number of initiatives to make them more effective and resilient. As per the Census 2011, more than 35 per cent of the state's population lives in urban areas. There are 93 ULBs in the state comprising 11 Municipal Corporations, 22 Municipal Councils and 60 Municipal Committees.

In 2021-22, a new scheme called Mukhyamantri Samagra Shahari Vikas Yojana was launched in order to provide basic civic amenities in financially weak municipalities. Geographical Information System (GIS) based property survey work in all ULBs is under progress. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission addresses livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills to them for accessing emerging market opportunities. The Mission aims at providing shelters equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.

## Key POINTS

- Grants are meant for sanitation solid waste management and attainment of star ratings as developed by Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- Grants will also be spent on drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.
- The 15th Finance Commission in its report for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has divided the ULBs into two categories: million-plus urban cities and those with less than one million populations.
- As per the Census 2011, more than 35 per cent of the state's population lives in urban areas.
- There are 93 ULBs in the state comprising 11 Municipal Corporations, 22 Municipal Councils and 60 Municipal Committees.

# Haryana tops in water conservation

Haryana Review Bureau

Haryana has achieved the first position in the country in water conservation and has been conferred the Water Conservation Award.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said the state government is not going to end up with this achievement. Better steps will be taken for water conservation in future.

The Chief Minister said that the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022 has also been passed, which aims to regulate the use of treated wastewater in the state. At present, there are many decisions and rules regarding the reuse of this water. Therefore, it was felt that a single mechanism should be made for this. In addition, the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority will also recommend tariffs for all uses of treated wastewater.

The bill was passed to further amend the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020 for conservation, regulation and management of water resources in the State, including water reuse and recycling.

The purpose of this amendment is to regulate the use of treated wastewater in the state. At present, there are a number of decisions and conditions regarding the reuse of Treated Waste Water. Therefore, the need for a single regulatory mechanism was identified.

Further, the need to fix tariff for all types of water uses was also identified. Thus, the Act is being

amended. The Authority shall decide tariff on the basis of consumption for excessive use of available surface water and treated wastewater. The Authority shall also recommend to the Government the retail rates of water for households, industries or commercial establishments.

The Haryana Water Resources Authority has categorized all the villages of the State in seven different categories based on the groundwater table. The Authority has categorised 1948 villages as severely groundwater stressed villages where depth to water table range is between 30.01 and more, 1093 villages are categorised as moderately groundwater stressed villages where the depth of water table's range is between 20.01 to 30.0. Meanwhile, 333 villages are categorized as potential waterlogged villages where the depth to the water table is 1.51 to 3.0 and 88 villages are categorized as severely waterlogged villages where the depth to the water table is 0.0 to 1.5 meters.

A 10-year study on the groundwater depletion pattern in different areas of Haryana suggested that the groundwater table of the state is depleting in a



# CM gets COVID-19 Commitment Award Dedicates it to each warrior

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal has been honoured with the COVID-19 Commitment Award by Asia One Magazine for providing excellent and outstanding leadership during the period of combatting Covid in the state.

The chief minister also received the honour for his contribution to the revival of the state's economy and for the collective efforts made for the welfare of the society despite the challenging pandemic times.

The Chief Minister, in turn, dedicated this honour to each COVID-19 warrior in the state.

He said that this award belongs to all those COVID-19 warriors of Haryana who, without thinking about their lives, day and night served the patients and made people aware of the Pandemic.

## Undeterred in lockdown

The Chief Minister said that

despite the lockdown, the spirit of serving the society amid the Covid warriors did not waver. They went door-to-door to ensure the delivery of daily necessities and medicines to the needy.

People arranged accommodation and food for the

needy who were stranded far away from home. During this, the government also responsibly helped every needy person.

"I am grateful to all the COVID Warriors as because of them, we became successful in controlling this Pandemic in the state", the chief minister added.



range of 0.03- 1.12 meter per year. Wells of most of the districts of Haryana have dried up. The water level fell over 30 meters in 1780 villages. This alarming depletion of the groundwater table indicates the huge water crisis in the future. To cope with this issue, an initiative was taken by the Haryana Government on 6 May 2020.

Called the "Mera Pani Meri Virasat" scheme, it grants assistance to farmers to the tune of Rs 7,000 per acre of land to quit paddy cultivation and shift to pulses or low water demanding crops. The motive of this scheme was to diversify about 1 lakh hectare area from rice cultivation to another crop. Drip and micro irrigation system was also

promoted by the government to provide 85 per cent subsidy in the severely water stressed zones of the state. For this, the government allocated Rs 435 crore in 2018.

Another scheme called Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas (SVAMITVA) was launched in 2020. It works for rejuvenation and construction of ponds in different villages of Haryana. A large group of farmers are not aware about these schemes while a few want the incentive raised from Rs 7,000 to Rs 20,000 per acre. Awareness among farmers is mandatory to save these precious natural resources which will be depleted soon in Haryana. As many as 85 blocks out of 141 are

overdrawn. Special focus and strategic plans on the crop cycle and water harvesting process need to be prioritized by policy makers.

Rainwater harvesting and recycling of wastewater can slow down groundwater depletion trends, but it needs proper implementation. Apart from these measures, village, district and block level awareness programmes will also be helpful to avoid extreme circumstances of water scarcity. The Centre and the state should work together to identify suitable solutions to ensure that existing water saving schemes are successful, and to promote awareness among farmers. Otherwise, the future generations will be deprived of their 'right to clean water'.

# 'Best State' for promotion of sports

Haryana Review Bureau

Maintaining its supremacy in the world of sports Haryana achieved yet another milestone nationally when it was awarded the 'Best State Award for Promotion of Sports'.

Minister of State for Sports, Sardar Sandeep Singh received the 'Best State Award for Promotion of Sports' on behalf of the State.

Haryana has received this award after beating all states, including Odisha which has been winning this award for the last three consecutive years. Besides this, the players of Haryana brought laurels to the State by winning awards in eight other categories as well.

The ACES Sports Star Awards is an initiative by the Hindu Group.

This year the jury has selected Haryana as the winner of the Award



for its role in promoting sports at the grassroots level and supporting the Olympic Movement as well.

The jury headed by Sh. Sunil

Gavaskar was particularly impressed by Haryana's long-standing commitment to sports and its efforts in grooming Olympians.

Haryana government has been making continuous efforts to promote sports for years. The display of sportsmanship by the players of Haryana in several national and international sports competitions and the awards received in large numbers have proved the effectiveness of the Sports Policy being implemented in the State. The government is taking concrete steps to promote sports in the State. Haryana Government has taken steps like allocating extra budget for Sports, ensuring best infrastructure, imparting quality training to sportspersons, giving huge amount of cash prizes, providing government jobs on merit basis and encouraging youth to perform better in sports of their interest.

Neeraj Chopra from Haryana bagged the 'Sports Star of the Year' and 'Best Player in Track and Field'

award while the, 'Best Para Male Sportsperson' was given to Sumit Antil; Ravi Dahiya was awarded with 'Best Sportsperson in Individual Sports'; Savita Punia was awarded 'Best Sportsperson in Team'; Indian Hockey Team (Men) was awarded 'Best Moment in Olympics (Team)' and 'National Team of the Year' and Indian Hockey Team (Women) with 'Best Team Award'. It would be worth mentioning here that in the Indian Hockey Team (Women) nine players were from Haryana.

The spokesperson said that these awards acknowledge and honour the achievements of our athletes and also individuals and institutions that play a leading role in realising the dream of making India a sporting nation to be reckoned with.





Young hands rowing the boat in a river near Kachwa road in Karnal  
-Photo by Vinay Malik

## CAMPUS CORNER

## 1,000 hi-tech libraries to be set up in villages

Haryana Review Bureau

One thousand hi-tech libraries will be built in the villages as a pilot project in Haryana to enable the youth of rural areas make their future bright by taking education in keeping with the present-day requirements. Besides, work is also underway to build 1,000 gyms in villages to encourage youth towards sports and to keep them away from drugs.

This was disclosed by the Development and Panchayats Minister, Mr Devender Singh Babli, at the 'Madhur Milan Programme' organized in Kheri Raiwali village of district Kaithal.

### Stone of school building laid:

The Transport Minister, Mr Mool Chand Sharma, laid foundation stone of the new four-storey building of Government Girls Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Ballabhgarh. It will be constructed at a cost of about Rs. 8.5 crore.

## Haryana plays a big shot

### Sports univ to catapult skills to global level

By Ajay Bhardwaj

In the backdrop of many stellar achievements that sportspersons in Haryana have clocked on international and national levels, Haryana took a big initiative for sportspersons by passing the Sports University of Haryana Bill, 2021 to set up a Sports University in the state to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching besides functioning as the training centre for select sports disciplines.

The cherished aim of the university would be to adopt best international practices and foster the sports culture in Haryana in a big way.

The objective of the University would be to develop to evolve as an institute of advanced study in the field of physical education and sports sciences, to provide for research and development and dissemination of knowledge in physical education and sports sciences by providing specially designed academic and training programmes in various areas of physical education and sports sciences and training in advanced technologies of sports.

Besides this, it would also aim at strengthening physical education and sports training programmes to promote sports. It would make provisions for vocational guidance and placement services in physical education, sports sciences, sports medicine, sports technology and other related fields and to generate capabilities for the development of knowledge and skills.



### New hockey astro turf for Nehru Stadium

The Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr Sandeep Singh, has said that a new hockey astro turf would be set up at Nehru Stadium in Gurugram at an estimated cost of Rs 9.4 crore. This work will be completed in the financial year 2022-23.

He gave this information in response to a question raised by a member during the Budget Session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha.

The minister told the House that besides this, a sports stadium is being constructed in the village of Fazilpur in Gurugram district at a cost of about Rs 2.04 crore. At present there are 10 trainers and 8 junior trainers in the district who are imparting training for various sports activities.

The university would offer courses of study and conduct appropriate academic and training programmes in physical education and sports sciences including sports technology, sports medicine, sports infrastructure engineering, kinesiology, clinical biomechanics, sports psychology, sports nutrition,

rehabilitation and physiotherapy, sports journalism, sports marketing and sports coaching, and to provide for instruction and training in such branches of learning as the University may, from time to time, determine and to make provisions for research and for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

## KU chair in name of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Haryana Review Bureau

A state-level function will be held in Panipat on April 3 to mark the celebrations of 400th Prakash Purab of 'Hind Di Chadar' Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. A replica of the 'Darbar Sahib' would be set up at Panipat and Sikh devotees from across Haryana and Punjab are expected to participate in large numbers. The function aims to spread the message of communal harmony and brotherhood as preached by Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. A Chair in the name of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji will also be set up at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, which will promote research work on the life of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said that Haryana shares a special bond not only with Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji but with all the ten Sikh Gurus as most of them have travelled in Kurukshetra and Lohgarh, which once was the capital of Sikh State. The state youth have a lot to learn from the life of these Sikh Gurus, the greatest humanitarians this world has ever seen.

"Acknowledging the same, the State Government from time to time has been paying tributes to the religious Gurus, Saints and Martyrs by organizing public meetings, functions, seminars across Haryana. Besides this, a special scheme Sant Mahapurush Vichar Parsar Yojana has also been started in Haryana," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

"Today it becomes our utmost duty to inculcate the teachings, ideologies of and philosophy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and other

religious Gurus and Sants in the society, especially among youth so that they can get inspiration from them. Along with the government, social and religious institutions also play a pivotal role in culturally shaping society," added Manohar Lal.

The Chief Minister said that invitations would be sent to the renowned Ragi and Katha Vachak to mark their presence in this state-level religious function. He has urged other religious Sikh organizations and Vice Chancellors of the universities across the state to organize the special cultural and religious programmes before April 3, 2022, in each district as a part of the celebrations of 400th Prakash Purab.

A light and sound show should also be organized at Karnal Lake. "Many places have been mentioned in the history where Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji has travelled and efforts would be made to develop all such small places. We will extend complete cooperation for developing all religious sites related to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal. /HR/

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