

# Haryana Review

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

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## CORONA TRACKER

ACTIVE CASES - 4,268 SAMPLES TESTED - 44,44,824 PATIENTS DISCHARGED - 2,53,765 RECOVERY RATE - 97.26% POSITIVITY RATE - 5.88% FATALITY RATE - 1.10%

ON DECEMBER 28, 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Haryana Review wishes its readers a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year

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# FORGET CORONA, 2021 INHERITS RICH LEGACY TO BUILD ON

By PARVEEN K MODI

Finally, the Corona-cursed 2020 has made way for 2021. Not that all bad and nothing good happened during the year. When historians sit down to record the history of Haryana, the year we have left behind will stand out as much for the front-footed efforts made by the Manohar Lal Government to squelch the deadly virus as much as for some the first-time decisions which earned Haryana the sobriquet of a trendsetter. Decidedly, the year will be etched in memory for the fight with Corona, notable gains made, milestones crossed, and examples set by Haryana for the peers to emulate.

Captains of all ships, they say, are great when the seas are calm. But it is in stormy seas that their mettle is tested. We had the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, leading from the front, convert the challenge posed by the fight against Corona into an opportunity, and earn the state acclaim and awards. The stupendous effort made in defeating the virus won Haryana the SKOCH Gold Award. Besides, headline decisions taken during the year perched Haryana on the high bench of progressive states and the state scored big on social indicators, a fact underscored by NITI Aayog.

Between the first Cabinet meet-

"2021 would be observed as 'Sushasan Parinam Varsh' during which officers and employees will be trained to ensure successful implementation of various Good Governance reforms implemented during 2020."

Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister

ing of the year held on January 3, 2020 —second of the Manohar Lal Government 2—and last on December 23, 2020, the focus ranged from social welfare to pressing gas on reforms and taking historic decisions. The horse of reforms has been in full trot. More than 40 Good Governance Reforms were rolled out during the year. Beginning with setting up of the Citizen Resources Information Department, the year closed with the ERP system rolled out by the Information, Public Relations and Languages Department.

The milestone decisions that marked the year include 75 per cent reservation for local candidates seeking jobs in the private sector which would go a long way in addressing the problem of joblessness in the state. Cast in law with the state Assembly passing the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020, it makes it mandatory for every employer to employ

75 per cent local candidates for the posts where the gross monthly salary or wages are not more than Rs. 50,000 or as notified by the government from time to time.

Some others of the ilk include giving women 50 per cent participation in the panchayat elections and giving people the right to recall such sarpanches and members of the block-level panchayat samitis and district-level zila parishads as fail to perform; raising social security pensions to Rs 2,250; and more crops being brought under BBY.

The year also brought the state laurels. Haryana topped the Energy Efficiency Index-2019; its power discoms logged higher ratings; and the state's performance on Social Development Goals was duly acknowledged by the NITI Aayog and the Chief Minister was lauded.

In aggregate, the Corona-ravaged 2020 has bequeathed a rich legacy for the New Year to build on. "The year 2021 would be observed as 'Sushasan Parinam Varsh' during which officers and employees will be trained to ensure successful implementation of various Good Governance reforms implemented during 2020," the Chief Minister says.

Given its intentions and plans, lent lungs by none other than the Chief Minister on Good Governance Day, the state government seems determined to make the New Year *annus mirabilis*, a Latin term which means a wonderful year.

# Haryana wins accolades for e-Governance

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

The Haryana Government's determined and persistent efforts to employ e-Governance to deliver citizen-centric services in a time-bound and hassle-free manner, have won accolades. The President, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, has awarded Excellence in Digital Governance Award to the ambitious Antyodaya Saral Project of the state. Earlier this year, this project had bagged 'Gold Award' in the category of 'Excellence in providing Citizen-centric Delivery'.

Antyodaya Saral is a Government to Citizen (G2C) public service delivery platform on which people can apply for 549 schemes and services offered by about 40 government departments, boards and corporations through the online portal, at the nearest Common Service Centre

(CSC) or at the 117 Antyodaya Saral Kendras run by the government.

Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Project Director, Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates, said the Antyodaya Saral platform was developed completely in-house by NIC Haryana and technical teams of the concerned departments. The portal has been built on the Service Plus framework which was also conferred Digital India Award under the 'Exemplary Product' category.

Since the launch of the portal, there has been visibility of over 3.4 crore applications for schemes/services across the state. More than 5.5 lakh applications are received through the Antyodaya Saral portal on a monthly basis. In addition to that, citizens are sent more than 20 lakh proactive SMSs per month informing them about the status of their applications. Over 97,000

grievances pertaining to service delivery have been received through the helpline, 96 per cent of which have been resolved.

The citizens have given Antyodaya Saral an overall satisfaction rating of 4.3 on a scale of 5 through the automated IVRS feedback calls made to them. The performance of each department and district is reviewed against the timelines defined under the Right to Service Act. The reviews are conducted by the CM Office on a monthly basis with DCs at the district level and nodal officers of departments at the headquarters. Dr. Gupta asserted that the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, also reviews the performance on a regular basis.

Haryana is a leader in efficient public service delivery for all G2C services and schemes, and these awards/recognition bear testimony to the same, he added.

## New Year brings along...

- Single fee for competitive exams: Preparing for the HPSC and HSSC entrance exams? You will have to pay fees only once for all these exams in the next three years. There will be no separate fee for separate posts. After three years, you would have to register yourself again.
- Cheaper education loans: Students would be able to take education loans under the Credit Guarantee Scheme at 7.5 per cent rate of interest. Higher education loans would also be available to those studying in Haryana institutes. If any student is not able to repay the loan, repayment would be made from the Haryana Credit Fund.
- Allowances raised: The monthly allowance for Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees has been hiked from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 per month. Besides, Rs 5,000 allowance will be given to Bhim awardees from Jan 1; and winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award will start getting Rs 20,000 per month.
- Registry at any tehsil: You would be able to get property registered at any tehsil office in your district from April 1 onwards.
- More horti crops under MBBY: From January 1, the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana will cover 20 crops, including 14 vegetables (tomato, onion, potato, cauliflower, peas, carrots, okra, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, brinjal, green chilli, capsicum, cabbage and radish), two spices (turmeric, garlic) and four fruits (mango, kinnow, Indian plum, guava). The cover under the scheme would be Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetables and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits. The farmer would have to contribute only 2.5 per cent of the sum assured.
- 30-day deadline for CLU: Beginning January 1, the Town and Country Planning Department has fixed 30-day deadline for granting change of land use (CLU).

# GLOBAL CHANTING OF VERSES MARKS GITA MAHOTSAV

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

Every year on the since 2016 celebrated on the Shukla Ekadashi, the 11th day of the waxing moon of the lunar Margashirsha month, during the International Gita Mahotsav, Kurukshetra resonates with the lessons of Bhagwad Gita which was revealed to Arjuna by Lord Krishna before the battle of

Mahabharata commenced.

Started five years ago in 2016 with the initiative of Chief Minister Manohar Lal, the Gita Mahotsava every year is a distinct religious-cultural festival that attracts scholars, religious gurus, students to harp on the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita in its varied hues.

The International Gita Mahotsava - 2020 commenced in Kurukshetra, Haryana with the chanting of

mantras and blowing of the conch.

The five-day event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur, Haryana Tourism and Education Minister Kanwar Pal, Member of Parliament, Nayab Singh Saini, MLA Subhash Sudha, Geeta Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji, Swami Shankaracharya Lokesh Muni on December 21 with the worship of the holy scripture Gita and taking a sip of the holy wa-

ter of Brahmasarovar. As Covid-19 cast its shadow on the festival most of the events including that of essay writing, Gita recitation, speeches, dialogues, painting competitions were organized by the Education Department through the online system. These competitions were held from December 11 to December 19 at the District-Level and from December 20 to December 21 at the State-Level.

However, the high point of the festival was the global recitation of 19 verses of Gita collectively by 55,000 school students at 12 noon on December 25 to create a unique world record.

In this Global Gita recitation, 50 students each from 50 schools each from 21 districts and 9000 students from District Kurukshetra were connected online simultaneously through social media, YouTube etc.



# HSI IDC beats Covid, takes a leap forward

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Covid-19 might have caused some major disruptions in the national economy but the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSI IDC), evolving a "new normal", has not allowed any let-up in the momentum. The new mantra of the HSI IDC's growth strategy in the post-COVID scenario scripted by its Managing Director, Mr Anurag Agarwal, has enabled it to turn over a new leaf in its growth trajectory.

Haryana is counted among the most developed and industrialized states in India. It remains a leading manufacturer of products like cranes, excavators, cars, two-wheelers, footwear, scientific instruments and many more. Nearly 80% of the excavators, 52% of the cranes, 60% of the motorcycles and 50% of the cars produced in India are manufactured here. The state enjoys a great strategic advantage as it surrounds Delhi from three sides providing access to nearly 11% of the domestic market.

Nearly 60% of the state falls under the National Capital Region providing it a distinct advantage even as the extensive network of 15 national highways provides connectivity with the rest of the country. Gurugram and Faridabad being major industrial districts/estates have strong manufacturing clusters on the national highways, making them the best investment zones for potential investors.

HSI IDC with its transparent and efficient work-culture has endeavoured to provide vast opportunities to new ventures. The e-auction mode of allotment of plots or land banks has played a vital role in keeping the pace of post-COVID continuity for the ongoing activities of HSI IDC.

The Corporation has developed or is in the process of developing 37 Industrial Estates spread over approximately 27,000 acres of land comprising about 21,600 industrial plots. About 15,000 plots already stand allotted and 6,400 more are available for allotment.

Among other big tickets for

HSI IDC which came this year has been Amperex Technology Limited (ATL), owned by TDK Corporation of Japan which purchased 180 acres of land in IMT Solna at a value of Rs. 550 crore for the manufacture of rechargeable Lithium Ion Polymer (LIP) Cells unit. The proposed investment is expected to be to the order of Rs. 7,500 crore (US\$ 1 billion).

HSI IDC has not let the COVID 19 spirit dampen its growth trajectory. It has been able to sell 144 plots at a value of Rs. 943.179 crore through e-auction in various industrial estates including Rai, Kundli, Barhi, Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Namaul, Manesar, and Karnal.

The proposal for allotment of 140-acres of land to Flipkart in Manesar to set up its largest fulfilment centre in Asia, involving an investment of about Rs 1,500 crore and job potential of 15,000 persons, is almost at the final stage. The e-commerce company plans to establish the unit by 2022. Similarly, Maruti Suzuki India Limited is also in touch with HSI IDC for expansion at IMT Kharkhoda for its production facilities.

Mr Agarwal says that these successes have been possible because of the proactive approach of the HSI IDC which is a nodal agency on behalf of the state government for effecting industrial and infrastructural growth in the State.

Mr Agarwal said the HSI IDC made special efforts to reach out to



Mr Anurag Agarwal, MD, HSI IDC

foreign investors. It endeavoured to capture a part of the supply chain that was expected to move out of China as global corporations were looking for diversification of their production base in the aftermath of COVID 19 under the China-plus-one policy.

Accordingly, a number of interactions were held with agencies like UKIBC, USIBC, USISPF, JETRO etc. to identify companies interested in shifting and an assessment was made of their requirements. A series of webinars were organized in May 2020 to interact with the potential Companies.

There was an overwhelming response to these events with more than 60 companies showing interest. Besides "HSI IDC Meeting Room" – a virtual web desk was

created to enable the potential investors to interact with a team of senior HSI IDC officers with regard to their investment proposals.

Recently, an interactive session was held in the presence of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, with Singapore-based companies conducted by the Foreign Cooperation Department and Enterprise Singapore to bring forth prospective investors. At the interactive session, based on the inputs received, the existing policy framework relating to various issues was revisited and aligned to the necessities of the companies intending to do a shift base – maximising Ease of Doing Business and minimizing Cost of Doing business.

## ELECTRONIC HUB

A Medical Devices Park on 300 acres in Panipat, and an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster on 400 acres at Solna are being developed to posit Haryana as the Electronics Manufacturing Hub. All these parks have been located at strategic centres which are well-connected, and would ensure smooth transport of raw material and finished goods. In view of the difficulties faced by the industry during the pandemic, the HSI IDC has allowed general extension of one year to all the units in its estates without any charges.

A new Industrial Policy of the state government is also in the final stage which would usher in economic development.

## New initiatives

A special dispensation mechanism has been created for all approvals within seven days under the Haryana Enterprises Promotion Centre (HEPC). An e-office has been introduced in HSI IDC to facilitate quick decisions/ approvals. For minimizing the Cost of Doing Business, a special 'Leasing Policy' for industrial plots was finalized.

Identifying the need for housings for labour in the post Covid-19 scenario, the state government/ HSI IDC has come up with 'Housing for All' policy, which allows for an additional 10 per cent of floor area ratio for housing in industrial plots. Besides additional industrial workers labour housing sites were carved in various Industrial Estates to encourage walk-to-work culture.

Mr Agarwal said the state government and the HSI IDC had also started efforts to make Haryana a hub for Electronics, Pharma, Medical Devices, Agro/Food processing, and Auto in the post COVID 19 situation. A Bulk Drugs Park is proposed to be developed over an area of 2,000 acres in Hisar under the Government of India scheme to ease India's dependence on China for the basic Pharma ingredients – the APIs.



# Road mishaps on the decline in Haryana

By SHAGUN KAPOOR

There is a decline in road accidents in Haryana. As per the details contained in 'Road accidents in India 2019' prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, out of 29 States of India, Haryana is one among them where road accidents, deaths and injuries are the lowest as compared to the other States.

Deaths due to road accidents in 2019 witnessed a decline as compared to the previous year despite a very high rate of growth of automobiles. Therefore, in percentage terms, the number of accidents decreased by 3.86 per cent. Death rate has decreased by 0.20 per cent and injuries have decreased by 3.85 per cent over that of the previous year.

The annual report 'Roads accidents in India 2019' provides information on accidents related deaths

and injuries, based on information supplied by the Police Departments of States and UTs in a set of standardized formats approved by the Committee on Road Safety. The latest report overviews causes of road accidents and initiatives taken by the Central government.

Haryana reported 10,944 road accidents in 2019 in which 5057 persons were killed. In 2018, the total number of road accidents occurred were 11,238 in which 5,118 persons were killed. The data also revealed that the State accounted for around 3.3 per cent of the total accident related deaths in 2019 as against 3.4 per cent in 2018.

During the period of 2018-19, the number of road accidents, persons killed and injured in million plus cities was also recorded by the TRW. Faridabad of the State is one of the cities which was ranked 35th in 2019 where 689 total road accidents occurred. The city ranked 26th in 2018.



# New industrial policy aims at Rs 1 L cr investment, 5 lakh jobs

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

**A**iming to attract investment worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore and generate 5 lakh jobs in the state, the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy 2020, seeks to establish the state as a competitive and favoured investment destination, achieve regional development and provide livelihood opportunities to its people through resilient economic development.

The Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, in Chandigarh on December 23, approved the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy 2020.

The policy will focus on building a resilient economy on the back of robust industrial growth. It seeks to leverage opportunities arising out of changes in global economic order and align industrial growth in the state with national initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission. The policy takes cognizance of the emerging trends in supply chain, electric mobility, agri-tech, green manufacturing and climate change and healthcare and pharma and other new avenues for growth.

With a view to ensuring timely delivery of services to the investors, 41 new services will be included in the Haryana Right to

Services Act, 2014. The Single Window System will be further strengthened with the integration of additional 36 new services.

The policy emphasizes the need for a balanced regional growth across the state. The state has been divided into 4 categories of blocks based on industrial development. 'A' category blocks comprising industrially developed areas, 'B' category blocks comprising areas of intermediate development, 'C' category blocks comprising industrially backward areas, and 'D' category blocks comprising industrially most backward areas.

Graded incentives will be provided in these category blocks (maximum in 'D' category blocks). The categorization now is 'A' category-13 (earlier also 13), 'B' category-21 (earlier 23), 'C' category-40 (earlier 56), 'D' category-66 (earlier 66).

This policy places special emphasis on development of the MSME sector and their business growth. It envisages bringing up a paradigm shift from being a regulator to a facilitator of MSMEs. The state government has undertaken several initiatives to assist the MSME sector in becoming globally competitive. The cluster development, enhancing market linkages and international collaboration, enhancing access to infrastructure

and technology, regulatory simplification, infrastructure support and fiscal incentives are envisaged to provide an impetus to the growth of MSME sector in the state and to promote entrepreneurship.

To reduce the cost of doing business in the state and enhance industry competitiveness, the policy offers an array of attractive fiscal incentives to MSME, large, mega and ultra-mega enterprises, exporting units, thrust sector enterprises, essential sector enterprises, import substitution enterprises and identified service enterprises.

The incentives include but are not limited to investment subsidy in lieu of Net SGST, interest subsidy, stamp duty refund, electricity duty refund, employment subsidy and technology acquisition support, amongst others. Ultra-Mega and Mega and Cluster projects as defined under this policy will also be considered by Haryana Enterprises Promotion Board (HEPB) for special package of incentives.

To further promote the national movement of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', concession on land price may also be provided to eligible enterprises supporting import substitution. In support of micro enterprises for generating employment opportunities for youth at their doorstep in rural areas, the Haryana Gramin Udyogik Vikas Yojna will be introduced. The policy also offers enhanced incentives to women and SC-led micro enterprises and start-ups to promote inclusive economic development of the state.

The policy will consider auto, auto components and light engineering, agro-based, food processing and allied industry, textiles and apparels, electronic system design and manufacturing (ESGM), Defence and aerospace manufacturing, pharmaceutical and medical devices, chemical and petrochemicals and large-scale energy and data storage as thrust sectors with increase in emphasis and assistance.

## Salient features

- To reduce the cost of doing business, Haryana's new industrial policy offers an array of fiscal incentives to MSME, large, mega and ultra-mega enterprises, exporting units, thrust, essential and import substitution enterprises.
- Under the policy, 41 new services will be included in the Haryana Right to Services Act, 2014.
- Single Window System will be further strengthened with the integration of additional 36 new services.
- To ensure balanced regional growth, the state has been divided into 4 categories of blocks based on industrial development.
- With an eye on development of the MSME sector, the policy seeks to bring about a paradigm shift in the role of the state from being a regulator to facilitator
- It identifies some thrust sectors for increased assistance. These include auto, auto components and light engineering, agro-based food processing and allied industry, textiles and apparels, ESGM, Defence and aerospace manufacturing.

## Stitched with stakeholders' suggestions

By PARVEEN K MODI

**S**titched with the warp and woof of suggestions and proposals made by various stakeholders, including captains of industry and industry associations, which keep lending lungs to the sentiments of industry, the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy, 2020, has been hammered into shape after in-depth rounds of discussions led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal.

Keen on knowing their views and getting constructive suggestions, the Chief Minister, accompanied by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, met and 'who is who' of Haryana industry, including Maruti Udyog, their representative bodies, officials involved in putting the policy together and its implementation, and various other stakeholders.

Official sources told Haryana Review that most of the suggestions received from various stakeholders on the draft policy had been incorporated. The draft policy had been put in the public domain twice for inviting suggestions and comments from industry veterans, industry bodies and associations, government departments, public representatives, especially MPs and MLAs, and individual businesses.

"Majority of the suggestions received pertained to fiscal incentives offered in the draft for various categories of industries. The recommendations also concerned spurring growth of start-ups and entrepreneurship in the state. These focused on developing industrial infrastructure and fuelling innovation in the industrial landscape", an official spokesman told Haryana Review.

Even while putting together the draft Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020 an extensive exercise had been undertaken, involving the stakeholders. Suggestions were incorporated in the draft from 151 industrial associations, 25 top corporate houses and national level bodies—FICCI, PHD, CII & NASSCOM. Three meetings at the level of 18 concerned administrative secretaries were also held.

## TEN PC AREA IN ESTATES FOR LABOUR HOUSING

Ten per cent area of industrial estates will be reserved as residential area for labour housing and Panchayat land will be made available on lease with the consent of villagers to promote industrialization in rural areas.

Explaining key provisions of the 'Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy-2020', the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Dushyant Chautala who also holds the portfolio of Industries and Commerce Department, said the policy would encourage exports under which a target of exports of Rs 2 lakh crore has been set.

Describing the new policy as important for regional development and generating maximum employment, Mr Chautala said that under the policy, mega and ultra-mega projects would be exempted from the purview of labour laws in Haryana, except the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for a period of three years, subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions.

He said that the limit of the number of workers for exemption from coverage under the Factories Act, 1948 had been increased from 20 to 40 for energy related industries. The IT, ITES, Electronics, Auto and Textile industry have been declared as public utilities under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in the new policy.

Not only this, the floor area ratio (FAR) has been increased from the general level of 50 per cent to 150 per cent i.e. up to 200 per cent in case of general industries whereas the FAR in case of warehousing has been increased from general level of 75 per cent to 150 per cent, he added.

Describing the new policy to be in favour of welfare of the youth and to help make them employable, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the 'Haryana Gramin Udyogik Vikas Yojna' will be launched to create employment opportunities for the youth in rural areas at their doorstep.



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

# Delhi-Panipat Corridor gets the nod

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

**T**he Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on December 23, 2020 approved implementation of the Delhi-Panipat Corridor of Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS).

The total length of the Delhi-Panipat Corridor of RRTS is 103.02 kms and it will have 17 stations, including six in Delhi and 11 in Haryana. The construction and commissioning of the RRTS will be undertaken in two stages—Sarai Kale Khan to Murthal, including Murthal Depot (58.28 Km), and Murthal to Panipat, including Panipat Depot (44.74 Km).

The project will facilitate efficient and effective movement of a large number of people into vastly congested places and provide important links for residents of urban/sub-urban nodes in Haryana to access services and facilities in towns and cities of the region, while bringing accelerating economic development of these urban nodes.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING AMBIT WIDENED

Widening the ambit of affordable housing, the Cabinet approved a proposal regarding amendment in the Affordable Housing Policy-2013 notified under section 9-A of Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act 1975 for change in Minimum Area Limit, Project Area Limit and Increase in Commercial Component and Parking Provisions.

As per the amendments, the maximum area limit of project under Affordable Housing has been increased from 10 acres to 30 acres. The minimum

area limit for setting up of Affordable Group Housing Colony has been reduced from 5 acres to 4 acres. It is pertinent to mention that although the minimum area norm is being proposed to be reduced from 5 acres to 4 acres yet the colonizer will provide the community building as per the norms prescribed for 5 acres. Further, community buildings shall be provided as per the norms for Internal Community Buildings as per policy, where population exceeds 10,000 in a colony. As per the amendment, now the commercial area has now been increased from 4 pc to 8 pc of Net Planned Area.

**FORTNIGHT IN RETROSPECT**

**Create 25K new job cards, CM tells officers**

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has directed officers to take effective steps to further empower the self-help groups. While addressing a state-level review meeting of the Disha Committee in Chandigarh, he said that each member of the self-help group should be given a monthly income of at least Rs 5,000. Steps should also be taken to make 25,000 new job cards. Under the NREGA scheme in 2019, an amount of Rs 388 crore was spent, whereas, in 2020 despite pandemic, expenditure of Rs 621 crore was made. In 2019, 3.64 workers and in 2020, 5.62 workers were provided work.

**Can give Jeevan Pramaan Patra up to Feb 28**

With a view to providing relief to the pensioners of the state, the Chief Minister has decided to extend the date of submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra (digital life certificates for Pensioners) up to February 28, 2021. Disclosing this, an official spokesperson said that in a view of the COVID-19 pandemic, pensioners had been given time from November 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021 to submit Jeevan Pramaan Patra (life certificate). Pensioners would be disbursed pension by the Pension Disbursing Authority (PDA) during the period mentioned above, the spokesperson added.

**Officers told to expedite process for homes**

Mr Manohar Lal has directed the officers to expedite the process of providing homes to eligible beneficiaries of Vimukt Ghumantu Jati under Housing for All Department. While presiding over a review meeting of the Vimukt Ghumantu Jati Vikas Board, he directed the officers to set up a Dedicated Grievances Committee for Vimukt Ghumantu Jati in every district of the state as per the directions of the Central Government. He urged the people of Vimukt Ghumantu Jatis to get themselves registered for Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) so that they can avail themselves of maximum benefits of various government schemes.

# HARYANA TAKES COVID BY THE HORNS

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

After the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Haryana on March 17, 2020, the state government made a resounding war cry to spread a word of caution to one and all even as the state health machinery immediately swung into action to meet the onslaught of pandemic.

From the date of inception of COVID-19 case in Haryana, the numbers have been increased to 257644 out of which 248935 cases have been cured whereas 2717 deaths have occurred so far.

However, the state has been witnessing a drop in its daily Covid-19 tally for almost a month.

One of the most redeeming features of the pandemic in Haryana has been that mortality rate has been hovering around one per cent. Though it touched 2.08 per cent in April, 2020, yet as the state health department swung into action to combat the pandemic it soon declined though after a series of precautionary measures were put in place. In June the mortality rate went below one per cent and touched the lowest so-far at point 62 per cent.

Mahendragarh (0.3%), Sonapat (0.5%), Rewari (0.6%) Gurugram (0.6%), Faridabad (0.9%) Palwal (0.5%) were among the districts where mortality rate has kept lower than the overall mortality rate of the state.

Already, the Haryana Government has strengthened the surveillance and control measures against the disease as a result of which the recovery rate has been close to 96 per cent. Some of the major districts which recorded higher rate of recovery have been Mahendragarh (98.4%), Hisar (96.4%), Gurugram (95.3%), Faridabad (96%), Bhiwani (95.2%), and Sirsa (95.4%).

In order to identify the silent carriers of the virus the health department intensified its campaign for collecting samples following which on an average 20,000 to 25,000 samples are collected every day. In all about 43 lakh samples have been collected so far which has helped a big way to identify the extent to which

The age wise distribution of COVID-19 Cases in Haryana represent that the highest number (64340) of cases reported in Haryana belongs to the age group 25-34 years while the deaths were maximum (1456) in the age group of 55-75 years.

Till the last reports, districts Gurugram (including 14 Italians), Faridabad, Hisar, Sonapat, Rohtak, Ambala, Rewari, Karnal, Panipat, Panchkula (including 21 Foreign Returnee), Kurukshetra, Sirsa, Mahendragarh, Bhirwani and Yamunanagar were sharing the major part of total COVID-19 cases in the state.

In fact, soon after the lockdown the Haryana government got cracking on fighting the pandemic with many out of the box ideas like formation of a Corona Relief Fund which ensured timely procurement of medical equipment, provision for temporary accommodations, food, clothing, medical care etc. for people affected and shelters and in quarantine camps, to facilitate the movement of stranded people, and also for developing immunity booster and other med-

- Plasma bank established at Faridabad, Gurugram, Panchkula, Rohtak and Karnal.
- 956 regular doctors and 206 Ayush Medical Officers recruited to tackle the crisis of COVID effectively.
- More than 74.72 lac persons have already downloaded Aarogya Setu App in Haryana.
- More than 102 Mobile Health Teams have already been formed to check health status

**TO THE AID OF PROTESTING FARMERS**

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and waterborne disease during the protest of farmers in Sonapat ten ambulances along with a team of Doctors including Ayush Doctors were deployed. Health team distributed more than 912 Masks, 1495 Medicines for common use and 107 Ayush immunity boosting dosages were distributed. Thermal scanning of 716 persons was also done to scan people with fever and if anybody found febrile, medicines were distributed to them.

icines, for distress ration, among other things.

The government of Haryana has spent about Rs 80 crores for procurement of medical equipment and others; for temporary accommodations, food, clothing, medical care etc.

Besides, during the lockdown the Haryana government has also helped the BPL families, where each family has been paid Rs 5,000 each week for a period of five weeks, costing the government exchequer Rs 261.24 crore. The Haryana government left no poor and needy people alone at the time of the pandemic that has gripped the nation. The government has also identified 68,759 workers from the unorganised sector to provide them with financial assistance. A total of Rs 35.10 crores were disbursed to these workers for a period of five weeks as Rs 5,000 each week.

The second round of sero survey was launched in October, 2020 by Health Minister, Haryana Sh. Anil Vij. The field activities of this survey were conducted in 22 districts of Haryana on 19-20 October, 2020.

Under this survey, total 16512 participants were interviewed and blood samples of 16477 were tested for sero-positivity.

The overall Sero-positivity of 14.8% was observed in Haryana in this round. Overall, it is 11.4% in rural areas and 19.8% in urban areas. Rural areas of Districts Faridabad and Jind were found to have the highest positivity rate of 25.5%. Urban areas of Districts Faridabad, Yamunanagar and Panipat had the highest Sero-positivity rates i.e. 40.2%, 37.1% and 36.3%, respectively. Districts Faridabad (31.2%), Yamunanagar (28.6%), Jind (26.6%), Panipat (23%), Karnal (20.7%), Ambala (19.5%), Nuh (17.6%) and Gurugram (16.5%) were having high Sero-positivity in comparison to the Haryana state.

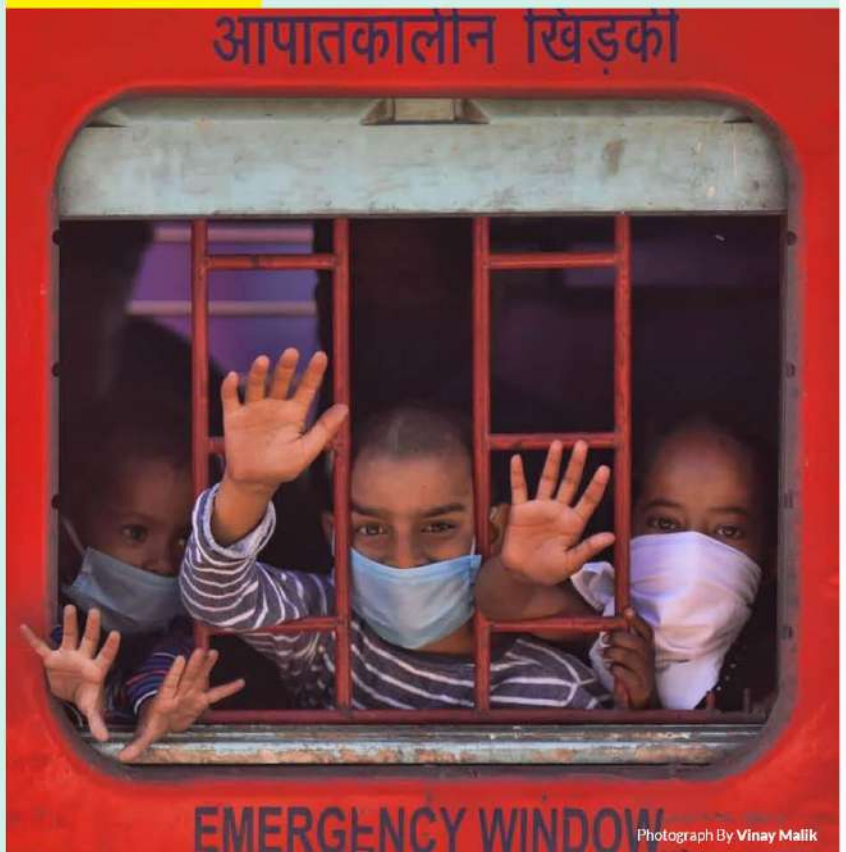
On comparison of Sero-positivity of 1st and 2nd round, it was observed that districts Yamunanagar, Jind, Panipat, Ambala, Rohtak, Kaithal, Fatehabad, Karnal and Jhajjar were having more positive variations in Sero-positivity. Whereas, districts Hisar, Mahendragarh, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari.

**Preparing for vaccination**

The Manohar Lal Khattar-led government in Haryana has stepped up preparations for the Covid-19 vaccination drive by starting the registration of those who will be administered shots in the first phase.

Haryana's additional chief secretary (Health), Rajeev Arora, said that the health department has already identified 1,800 vaccination session sites and over 5,000 vaccinators have been mapped for administering the vaccine.

"Moreover, to ensure the vaccine reaches every district, the health department has 22 vaccine vans (insulated) for transporting vaccines across the state," he added.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

# Agriculture gets all-round boost

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

The year 2020 saw agriculture in Haryana getting laser-focus and all-round boost to not only improve the ease of doing farming, make farmer's life easy and increase his income but also to ensure his holistic empowerment and make him self-reliant.

From crop diversification, insurance, better irrigation facilities, remunerative prices to the formation of Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs), the state government has gone the extra mile in partnering with the farmer in ways more than one to add value and verve to the state's farming ecosystem.

The past one year has been one of accomplishments and fulfillments, metamorphosing Haryana into an ideal farm and farm-

## FACTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

- Five lakh farmers of Haryana to be equipped with various skills, which will enable them to work abroad as well.
- Haryana ranks 22nd in fruit production in the country with total production of 7,37,820 metric tonnes from 60,920 hectares.
- The state ranks first in production of basmati and productivity in pearl millet, rapeseed and mustard, and accounts for over 60 per cent of the export of basmati in the country.
- Haryana is one of the four largest cotton producers in the country and is the second largest contributor of food grains to the central pool.

er-friendly state. Farmers are being taken care of with due diligence and perseverance by putting in place an ecosystem, which institutionalizes and galvanizes the process of farmers' holistic development and welfare.

A host of measures like Meri Fasal, Mera Byora, minimum support price (MSP) for all mandated Kharif and Rabi crops for marketing season 2020-21, Mera Pani, Meri Virasat and Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana have changed the profile of the farmer in Haryana, paving the way for realizing the goal of doubling his income.

Cotton growers in Haryana, who enroll under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' (PMFBY) and crop diversification scheme 'Mera Pani - Meri Virasat' need not worry about any increase in the premium rates, as the state government bears

100 per cent of the cost of insuring alternate crops. Following revamp of the Central Government's crop insurance scheme, farmers will have to pay only two per cent of the sum insured for Kharif, 1.5 per cent of the sum insured for Rabi, and five per cent for cotton, which is a commercial and annual crop.

Haryana ranks first in the production of basmati and productivity in pearl millet, rapeseed and mustard, and account for more than 60 per cent of the export of basmati in the country. The state has integrated 54 mandis with e-NAM portal to enable farmers to sell their produce at competitive prices, and is also offering the highest rate for milk procurement in the state.

The crop diversification scheme has produced good results. Farmers have so far committed to sowing alternate crops instead of

paddy in 1,27,409 hectares. They have also evinced keen interest in getting structures constructed for recharging groundwater under the scheme. The government has received 1,117 applications for construction of recharge shafts, against our target of 1,000 structures.

The government is also promoting the allied sector. Horticulture has been allocated a budget of Rs 492 crore in 2020-21. The government has mapped and identified 393 horticulture clusters for formation of Food Producers Organizations (FPOs), registered 452 FPOs and enrolled 25,427 farmers, and provided Training of Trainers (ToTs) to 1,156 lead farmers of 65 FPOs. The government is also going to set up 2000 multi-brand outlets under the brand 'Harit' to market products from Vita, self-help groups and others.



Photograph By Vinay Malik

## Education: New initiatives tell

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Though Covid-19 cast a shadow on the entire education system paralysing classroom teaching and other activities during the year, Haryana took some enduring and significant initiatives in the field.

In a big leap forward, the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, approved the project to establish panchayat libraries under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to help people in villages to not only enhance their knowledge but also help develop interest in education. In the first phase, libraries will be set up in villages under Mahagram.

In addition, the Chief Minister directed that a grading system should be prepared based on the facilities provided in libraries such as computers, a number of books and the number of visitors to the library. The Higher Education Department would be the nodal department for this project. Officers of the School Education Depart-

ment have been told to explore the possibility of use of school library by villagers after the school hours and on holidays.

The Haryana Higher Education Council evolved some new methods to cope with the pandemic crisis. As education by digital means became a vogue, the Council realised that a large number of poor students could not afford mobile sets or computers to stay in tune with their teachers. So it decided to open "mobile banks" in all educational institutions where students buying new mobiles could donate the older ones to facilitate online education for poor students. Keeping identity of poor students secret, the educational institutions have been advised to disburse donated mobile sets or computers among the poor ones.

The Council also mooted the idea of the flexi exam system which would be, in the first phase, executed in seven universities in the state. To begin with, at least seven out of the 17 government-aided universities of Haryana have agreed to in-

troduce the system that will impact thousands of students of post-graduation courses.

Under the flexi-examination system, a student who gets a compartment or wants to re-appear in one, two, or more papers can ask the university for a suitable time when he/she is ready for the re-examination.

Keen on promoting education among women the Education Minister, Mr Kanwar Pal, announced in August that free books would be given to students studying in Class 9 to 12 in state-run schools. At present, free books, school bags, other stationery and uniforms are provided to the students from class 1 to 8. The decision to provide free books to the students studying in Class 9 to 12 will involve an expenditure of about Rs 41.47 crore.

According to the 2018 Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER), there are 15,998 government schools with primary sections in the state; 9,177 primary and 6,821 upper primary schools.



# FPOs SET TO BE A GAME CHANGER FOR HARYANA FARMERS

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

The income of farmers in Haryana is set to get a major boost thanks to the Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs). The state government has decided to set up 1,000 FPOs with the objective of increasing farmers' income. About 75,000 farmers have been engaged so far through 486 FPOs. The products of FPOs will be made available to consumers through the Haryana State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd (HAFED) sale outlets.

In order to ensure a smooth flow of products to consumers, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed by HAFED and FPOs. The Cooperation Minister, Dr Banwari Lal, says: "HAFED platform is being provided to the FPOs to double the income of farmers as envisioned by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi. HAFED is a popular brand in the market. The state government is also providing loans to farmers at an economical rate of interest for infrastructure development of FPOs."

With a view to making different products of HAFED available to the consumers, the state government has also decided to provide assistance to FPOs for the marketing of HAFED products like honey, anla murabba, belgini murabba, apple murabba, harad murabba, ginger murabba, and garlic murabba. Honey-based products and turmeric would also be made available to the consumers through HAFED sale outlets.

HAFED has signed MoU with two FPOs -- Atulaya Beemaster Producer Company Limited, Jind, and Fatehabad Ekta Honey Farmer Producer Company Limited, Jandli Kalan, Fatehabad. These FPOs are registered with the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium, Haryana (SFACH). At present, there are 29 HAFED sale outlets. Nearly 50 HAFED Bazar outlets are proposed, which would be opened in

### Key points

- There will be a National Project Management Agency (NPMA) at SFAC for providing overall project guidance, data compilation and maintenance through integrated portal and information management and monitoring.
- Priority will be given for formation of FPOs in aspirational districts in the country with at least one FPO in each block of aspirational districts.
- FPOs will be promoted under 'One District One Product' cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding and export by them.
- There will be a provision of Equity Grant for strengthening the equity base of FPOs.

all district headquarters of the state by the end of January 2021.

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Mr Jai Prakash Dalal, feels that Haryana will have to move in the direction of horticulture along with agriculture-oriented states and, for this, FPOs should be set up at village level or cluster level for processing, packaging and branding of farmers' produce.

The area under horticulture in Haryana was 4.39 lakh hectares in 2014, which has now gone beyond 5.26 lakh hectares. Haryana has set a target to increase the horticulture area to 10 per cent by 2030. The Horticulture Department is also setting up Excellence Centres all over the state, which includes promotion of bee keeping and new varieties of vegetables and fruits. Training institutes are also being run at six places for farmers.

Managing Director, HAFED, DK Behera, said as per the MoU, about 27 products manufactured by these FPOs would be made available at HAFED sale outlets. Apart from this, new FPOs would also be added in future so that quality products are available to consumers at affordable prices.

Director General, Horticulture Department, Dr Arjun Saini, said the state government had decided to set up 1,000 FPOs with the objective of increasing farmers' income.

It is worth mentioning that In-

dia is strengthening its hold in the international agricultural market while majority (82 per cent) of its farmers have small or marginal holdings of land and continue to live with the drudgeries of agriculture, trapped in a vicious poverty

cycle. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to streamline consolidation of land as well as integration of small holders into agricultural value chain, initiated farmer producer organizations.

FPOs are member-based farmers' institutions imperative to feed the growing population of the world with shrinking resources and changing climate. Besides India, countries like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia and so on, have also adopted the FPO approach.

Determined to make this initiative a success, the state government is providing necessary policy support. FPOs, formed under various initiatives of the Government of India, state governments, NABARD and other organizations over the last 8-10 years, number about 5,000, including FPCs. Of these, about 3,200 FPOs are registered as producer companies and the remaining as co-operatives or societies.

"Small and marginal farmers do not have economic strength to apply production technology, services and marketing including value addition. Through the formation of FPOs, farmers will have better collective strength for better access to quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access through economies of scale for better realization of income," said an official of Haryana's Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&WC).

Initially there would be three implementing agencies to form and promote FPOs -- Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The DAC&WC will allocate clusters to the implementing agencies which, in turn, will form the cluster based business organization in the states.

The Central government has provisioned a budget of Rs 496.00 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) with a further committed liability of Rs 2,369 crore for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 towards handholding each FPO for five years from its aggregation and formation. FPOs will be formed and promoted through the Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) engaged at the state or cluster level by implementing agencies.

The CBBOs will have five categories of specialists from the domain of crop husbandry, agri marketing, value addition and processing, social mobilization, law and accounts and IT/MIS. These CBBOs will be a platform for end to end knowledge for all issues in FPO promotion.

## FINANCIAL VIABILITY

In order to ensure smooth flow of funds, there will be a Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF) of up to Rs 1,000 crore in the NABARD with an equal contribution by DAC&WC and the NABARD and the CGF of Rs 500 crore in the NCDC with equal contribution by DAC&WC and the NCDC for providing suitable credit guarantee cover to accelerate flow of institutional credit to FPOs by minimizing the risk of financial institutions for granting loan to FPOs.

The States/UTs will be allowed to avail loan at prescribed concessional rate of interest under Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) approved for set up in the NABARD for developing agriculture marketing and allied infrastructure in Grams, by making marketing and allied infrastructure including common facilitation centre, custom hiring centre for FPOs as eligible category for providing assistance to States/UTs.

## CCHAU DEVELOPS NEW WHEAT VARIETY

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, has developed a new variety of wheat WH 1270. It has already been notified and released for sowing. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Samar Singh, has attributed it to the hard work put in by the scientists.

Disclosing this, Prof Singh said the variety had been developed by the scientists of the Wheat Section Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of the Agriculture College. It has been notified and released by the 'Crop Standards, Notification and Approval Central Sub-Committee' of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi.

The WH 1270 has been released for cultivation in north western plain zone of India consisting of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan (except Kota & Udaipur divisions) and Western UP (except Jhansi division), parts of J&K (Jammu & Kathua distt.) and parts of HP (Una distt. and Paonta valley) and Uttarakhand (Tarai region).

The Director of Research, Dr. S.K. Sehrawat, said the variety had been recommended for early sowing i.e. last week of October. If sown early, its yield can be increased from 4 to 8 quintals per acre.

If proper sowing along with use of fertilizer and regular watering is done as per recommendations made by the university, the average yield of the variety (WH 1270) is 75.8 quintal per hectare (q/ha) and the maximum yield can be up to 91.5 quintal per hectare (q/ha).

It has a good degree of resistance to yellow and brown rusts, flag smut, leaf blight and powdery mildew diseases prevalent in the area. This variety matures in 156 days and its average height is up to 100 cm, due to which it does not fall in the field. Protein in this variety is also higher than other varieties, Dr Sehrawat added.

It is remarkable that though a small state, Haryana's contribution to the central food storage of the country is 16 per cent and it ranks among the leading states in crop production, he said adding that it tops in the country in per hectare wheat production capacity.

## FPO promoters bullish

Anil Sandhu says that 2,250 beekeepers or apiculturists are associated with his FPO -- Atulaya Beemaster Producer Company Limited. They are producing at least ten types of honey, which is priced at Rs 350 per kg to Rs 2,000. The costliest honey is from Kashmir. According to Sandhu, Haryana farmers keep bee boxes in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The price of honey is decided as per the input costs. Farmers will get better prices as their produce is going to be sold in HAFED outlets. Earlier, they used to sell their produce to the middlemen, who never gave them remunerative prices.

Similar views were echoed by K Suresh of Fatehabad Ekta Honey Farmer Producer Company Limited, another FPO with which HAFED has inked MoU to produce farm produce so that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. K Suresh, who was earlier working as a software engineer, said that he formed the FPO six months back with the help of the Horticulture Department. As many as 550 bee farmers are associated with the FPO and they have put up around 6,000 honey boxes in different neighbouring states including Haryana. "We are hopeful the help from HAFED will ensure better prices to bee farmers," he said.





WINDOW ON SPORTS

## CM's New Year gift to sports persons and awardees

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

2021 has dawned on a good note for the sportspersons and sports awardees in Haryana. The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has announced increase in the honorarium for Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardee sportspersons from Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,000 per month.

He made the announcement on Good Governance Day. This will not only inspire the sportspersons to strengthen sports in the state but will also draw the youth towards sports which constitutes the very theme of the sports policy of the state government.

The state government has honoured 130 sportspersons with Bhima Award and further announced to increase the amount given to the winners wherein the awardees were paid an amount of Rs 5 lakh only. But now they will be given Bhima allowance of Rs 5,000 per month. Winners of the Adventure Award given by the Central Government have also been honoured with an honorarium of Rs 20,000.

Disclosing this, the Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Mr Sandeep Singh, said that 80 players had received the honour of Arjuna Award in the state while the Dronacharya Award had been awarded to 15 coaches. All of them will be given an amount of Rs 20,000 each per month. All types of facilities are being provided to the sportspersons by the state government.

Later, at the state-level event, Mr Sandeep Singh said that in 2021, Haryana will host Khelo India-2021 for the first time. With this, the sportspersons of the state will get a new identity and they will also get an opportunity to show their talent. This achievement is part of the sports policy of the state government, he added.

CAMPUS CORNER

## GJU, CCSHAU do Haryana proud

By SHAGUN KAPOOR

Two universities of Haryana—Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, and Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University have done the state proud. Both have been ranked among the top universities in India as well as in the world. While GJU has been ranked twelfth, CCSHAU has occupied 20th position in India in the Universitas Indonesia (UI) Green Metric World Universities Ranking 2020.

At the global level, the GJU has

been ranked 445th from the standpoint of six categories, including setting and infrastructure (SI), energy and climate change (EC), waste (WS), water (WR), transportation (TR) and education and research (ER) and the CCSHAU stands at 672nd position.

The benchmarks on which the universities have been ranked provide the result of an online survey regarding global climate change, energy and water conservation, waste recycling and green transportation. While GJU scored 5,350 marks, CCSHAU hit a tally of 4,125.

Furthermore, the rankings have been declared by UI on the basis

of verified data related to six categories. GJU scored 1,000 marks and ranked 190th in SI category, scored 925 and ranked 513th in EC category, scored 650 and ranked 288th in WR category, scored 825 and ranked 534th in WS category, scored 1,100 and ranked 384th in TR category, scored 850 and ranked 607th in ER category.

At the national level, the university has been ranked seventh in SI category, 14th rank in EC category, 11th rank in WS category, 8th rank in WR category, 13th rank in TR category and 18th rank in ER category.

On the other hand, CCSHAU

scored 725 in SI category, 700 in EC category, scored 500 in WR category, 675 in WS category, 525 in TR category and scored 1000 in ER category.

In order to raise international standing, Universitas Indonesia launched UI Green Metric University World Ranking in 2010. Since then, this ranking has become one of the flagship programs that ranks universities around the world based on appointed indicators pertaining to campus environmental issues. Significantly, the ranking has seen a dramatic increase from 95 universities in 2010 to 780 universities from 85 countries in 2019.



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