

# Haryana Review

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## AN OUTREACH WITH SHOWER OF BONANZA

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ON APRIL 12, 2021

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## Haryana leaves neighbours behind in GST mop-up

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

The resilience of Haryana's economy is amply reflected in the volume of the GST revenue the state has been generating over the years. Official data shows that Haryana's GST collection is much higher than many big states of the country. While the neighbouring states of Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand stand nowhere in comparison to Haryana, UP and Rajasthan are still better placed.

In March this year, gross GST revenue collection of the country was pegged at a record of Rs 1,23,902 crore out of which CGST is Rs 22,973 crore, SGST Rs 29,329 crore, IGST Rs 62,842 crore (including Rs 31,097 crore on import of goods). The cess works out to Rs 8,757 crore, including Rs 935 crore collected on import of goods. The GST revenue collection in Haryana in the month of March has been pegged at Rs 5,709.6 crore as compared to Rs 4,874.29 crore in March, 2020, registering 17 per cent growth. It does not include GST on import of goods.

So far as the buoyancy in GST collection is concerned, Haryana ranks among the top eight states of the country. In terms of volume, Haryana was the sixth largest collector of GST in March this year. The other states are: Maharashtra 17,038 crore, Gujarat Rs 8,197.04

crore, Karnataka Rs 7,914.98 crore, Tamil Nadu 7,579.18 crore, UP Rs 6,265.01 crore, and Haryana Rs 5,709.60 crore. The other two states are West Bengal Rs 4,386.79 crore and Telangana Rs 4,166.42 crore.

The upward trend in GST collection, crossing over Rs 1 lakh crore nationally at a stretch for six months, and a steep increasing trend over this period are clear indicators of rapid economic recovery post-pandemic. Closer monitoring against fake billing, deep data analytics using data from multiple sources including

GST, Income Tax and Customs IT systems and effective tax administration have also contributed to the steady increase in tax revenue over the last few years.

Haryana's neighbouring states and UTs don't stand anywhere in terms of GST collection, excluding GST on import of goods. In March this year, Jammu and Kashmir collected Rs 351.61 crore, Himachal Pradesh Rs 686.88 crore, Punjab Rs 1,361.85 crore, Chandigarh Rs 165.27 crore, Uttarakhand Rs 1,303.57 crore, Delhi Rs 3,925.97 crore and Rajasthan Rs 3,351.79 crore.



## Antyodaya spreads its wings

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

The Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Uthhan Yojna is all set to enter a higher orbit as the Haryana Government has set for itself the target of taking two lakh families out of the vice-like grip of poverty in the current financial year.

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, who avidly scripted the scheme, has announced that the package for the upliftment of two lakh families would include provision of education, skill development, wage employment, self-employment in a tailored-made fashion to help each family reach a minimum economic threshold of Rs 1.8 lakh per annum.

The Chief Minister told Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) the other day that the Yojna aimed at prioritising families from the weaker sections to pro-

vide them maximum benefits of various social welfare schemes. "The lowest in status shall be the highest in merit for selection of welfare schemes," he added.

He directed the ADCs to complete the work of constituting local committees (LC) which would identify one lakh families considering various aspects like income, assets, liabilities et al. These committees will verify the credentials of such families under the supervision of the respective ADCs. Once verified, these families will be given the benefits of various social welfare schemes to enhance their financial and social status.

The scheme is an umbrella mission to uplift each identified family. Each government department is prioritising schemes for the uplift of one lakh poorest families in the state identified by the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP).

The Chief Minister said that once

these one lakh families are successfully uplifted, the government will identify the next lot of poorest one lakh families and work for their economic uplift. "Through this Abhiyan, our aim is that no family in the state lives below the poverty line by 2025," he added.

"The PPP has given us valuable data for planning and designing schemes. Evaluation of available data of over 2.31 crore individuals in the state indicates that 8.36 lakh persons in the age group of 18-60 years have declared themselves as being unemployed," said a senior officer in the Chief Minister's Office.

After verification, the government proposes to select one lakh more unemployed youth in the age group of 20-35 years coming from families with the poorest economic status and prepare a range of skill development courses to fill them for gainful employment.

## Govt. to bear cost of 31 dental procedures

By PARVEEN K MODI

Living up to the credentials of an establishment that cares for its present and past staff, the Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has decided to take the reimbursement route to bear the cost incurred by them on some medical procedures.

Committed to the welfare of its employees, pensioners and their dependents, the Haryana Government has decided to reimburse them the cost of 31 dental procedures done at government health facilities, including government medical colleges, district hospitals and all such private hospitals/medical colleges as are empanelled with the state government.

### Gesture to staff, pensioners

This facility is being extended under what is being perceived as the first-of-its-kind dental policy broad contours of which, along with the listed procedures and their respective cost, have been conveyed to all concerned in a communication by the Director General Health Services, on March 19, 2021.

The policy is applicable to regular Haryana Government employees, pensioners and their dependents. Contractual/ outsourced employees under the Haryana Government are not covered under this scheme.

But this facility comes with a caveat. State government employees and pensioners wanting to avail themselves of reimbursement of cost of the listed dental procedures will have to surrender the option of fixed medical allowance, and switch over to open medical allowance. Once the claimant makes the switch, he/she will have to stick to it for a period of two years.

For such dental procedures as are not covered under the policy, the beneficiary will have to bear the expenses as no reimbursement would be allowed. A list of such facilities is available on the website of the Health Department i.e. haryana-health.nic.in).

All departments/ boards/ corporations of the state government shall issue valid identity cards to their regular employees, pensioners to entitle them to reimbursement of the cost of dental procedures.

The employees and pensioners wanting to avail themselves of the benefit shall have to carry along identity cards which will be duly verified by the authorities, says the communication.

Show I-Card/PPO and get the procedure done—Pg 4

# Haryana gears up for Guru Teg Bahadur 400th birth anniversary



## HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

**H**aryana has chalked out a series of cultural and religious programmes to mark the 440th birth anniversary of the ninth Sikh guru, Guru Teg Bahadur, also known as "Hind ki Chaadar".

A coffee table booklet based on his life journey would be released on May 1, 2021, when a grand function would be held throughout

the nation and worldwide.

Speaking at a high-level committee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, for the nation-wide celebrations Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, said the state would celebrate the historic occasion in a befitting manner.

"Haryana shares a special bond with Guru Teg Bahadur Ji as he had commenced his journey to Lohgarh from Jind district, which

once was the capital of Sikh State. The state youth have a lot to learn from the life of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, the greatest humanitarian this world has ever seen," he said.

The Chief Minister also urged the Prime Minister to include important historic places of Haryana related to Guru Teg Bahadur Ji to the travel list of the devotees who would be a part of Nagar Kirtan to be organised as a part of these celebrations.

While sharing the story of the supreme sacrifice made by the Guru Teg Bahadur Ji for Kashmiri Pandits, Mr Manohar Lal said the supreme sacrifice of an ancestor from village Badkhalsa, Bhai Kushal would always be remembered. Bhai Kushal Singh offered his head to fool the Mughals so that the head of the Guru Teg Bahadur Ji could be taken to Anandpur Sahib.

While remembering the supreme sacrifice of Bhai Kushal Ji, a me-

morial has been built at Badkhalsa Memorial Complex, Rai, district Sonapat, said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said that amid COVID-19 Pandemic, plans are being made to organize digital celebrations. To preach the message of communal harmony and brotherhood, Haryana Government is paying tributes to the religious gurus, saints and martyrs by organizing public meetings, functions, seminars across the state.

# AN OUTREACH WITH SHOWER OF BONANZA

Besides other concessions, CM doles out 100 pc waiver of penal interest on industrial plots

By PARVEEN K MODI

It was an outreach to reach out to industry in the real sense of the term. An outreach by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, to woo new investment, ease further the ease-of-doing business, and give out a message to industry loud and clear that his government cares for them, and works to address the issues that dog their path. And the bonanza he showered on the industry seemed to underscore the message.

It all started with 'Vivaadon Ka Samadhan' with industrialists. The Chief Minister used the occasion to shower a bonanza the fabric of which was woven with concessions and waivers. He followed it up with a round with the regional head of Parle-G Biscuits, Mr Jitender Bakshi, and regional head of 'Kaka Namkeen' in New Delhi, and discussed the use of millet (bajra) for manufacturing biscuits, namkeen and other products by purchasing millet from Haryana.

It is pertinent to mention here that the state government procured 7.76 lakh metric tonnes of bajra during the Kharif season. It would help both companies with millet which helps in controlling the cholesterol levels. Besides, its rich fiber content helps enhance digestion and contain diabetes.

Bonanza, whenever it comes, is welcome. But one coming on the eve of the Festival of Colours gets more attractive. None of the participant-industrialists expected the Chief Minister to turn the unique initiative of 'Vivaadon Ka Samadhan' into a shower of bonanza. But keen on easing further the ease-of-doing business and promoting industry, he made it for the industrialists owning HSIIDC plots.

Presiding over a meeting with them in Chandigarh, Mr Manohar Lal announced major relief in outstanding payment of interest and waiver of penalties. Also present were the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, and Minister of State for Labour and Employment Department, Mr Anoop Dhanak.

The bonanza included a settlement scheme for clearance of outstanding dues, which will benefit more than 2,250 industrialists. If an industrialist pays dues on account of cost of the plot along with the enhanced cost at one go, he will get a waiver of 25 per cent on overdue interest; 100 percent waiver of penal interest; and his interest liability will be frozen up to March 31, 2021.

But it comes with a caveat: he should pay the entire balance amount by June 30, 2021. Given that the outstanding amount on this account aggregates about Rs 1,500 crore, the benefit may work out to about Rs 225 crore, the Chief Minister said.

## PAY EXTENSION FEE, GET THREE MORE YEARS

The Chief Minister announced rationalization of the extension fee structure from April 1, 2021. The period for completion of the project beyond the initial three years would be deemed extended for another three years on payment of the rationalised extension fee, to be decided by the HSIIDC Board of Directors.

It will be done for three categories of estates-- A, B and C. For A category estates, the 4th & 5th year extension fee would be Rs 50 per sq. meter; for B category estates it will be Rs. 25 per sq. meter; and for category C, it will be Rs 10 per sq. meter. As many as 330 allottees will stand to benefit. No extension beyond six years shall be permissible after which, the HSIIDC shall put the plot on auction. After deducting charges, the profit on sale shall be shared equally with the allottee.

## OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE PROCESS SIMPLIFIED

In cases where the allottees have applied for the occupation certificate (OC) but it was not issued on account of default in payments, it has been decided that where the department had conducted inspection within six months from the date of application, the extension fee would be charged till the date of inspection. This provision will

## CM seeks suggestions on 75 pc quota policy

The Chief Minister has sought suggestions and feedback from the stakeholders prior to framing under the policy mandating 75 per cent job reservation for local candidates.

Presiding over a meeting with major Industrial associations, chambers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders, he said, "Industry plays a pivotal role in the state's development. Many important and valuable suggestions were shared by the stakeholders at the meeting which would certainly be incorporated in the policy. If required, amendments would be made in the policy to ensure that it becomes industry-friendly".

The state government is committed to providing ample employment opportunities to the local youth along with ensuring education and skill development of every youth, he added.

come into force when the applicant clears the outstanding payment.

## EXIT ROUTE FROM PRESTIGIOUS PROJECTS

Giving a major relief to those who had invested in a prestigious project, the Chief Minister announced that if the allottee availed himself of the one-time settlement scheme and pays the outstanding dues and extension fee, he would be entitled to benefit from the Amnesty Scheme for the Exit Route from prestigious projects for falling short of the investment. Provided the allottee has started commercial production with investment of at least 25 percent of proposed Fixed Capital Investment.

The Chief Minister also announced rationalisation of refund rules upon surrender/resumption of plots. The HSIIDC will amend its refund rules upon surrender/resumption of plots/sites, to provide for a deduction of 10 percent of the plot price and interest/ delayed interest paid by the allottees on instalments, if any, shall also be forfeited subject to maximum of 10 per cent price of the plot.

Mr Manohar Lal announced another major incentive, whereby, the HSIIDC will allow rebate of 10 per cent in plot cost, if the entire cost of the plot is paid in lump sum within a period of 45 days from the date of issuance of the allotment letter. Besides, term Lending Schemes for HSIIDC and HFC were also announced.



The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, presiding over a meeting with Industrialists and other stakeholders, in Chandigarh. The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, and the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Mr Anoop Dhanak, are also seen in the picture

FORTNIGHT IN  
RETROSPECTDepts can make Rs  
400 cr purchases: CM

The High Powered Purchase Committee which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, has approved purchases of goods to be procured by various departments up to the limit Rs 400 crore.

Speaking to media persons after the meeting, Mr Manohar Lal said that approval had been given for the purchase of educational equipment required for upgrading traditional classrooms into web-based smart classrooms. Since promoting online education is the need of the hour, permission had been given for the purchase of modern educational equipment.

An amount of Rs. 25 crore has been approved for the purchase of 38 outdoor and indoor sports items to be utilized in the schools across the state, he added.

Showers bonanza on  
PACS employees

The Chief Minister has accepted 11 major demands raised by Haryana unit of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and showered a bonanza on the Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS) employees.

While presiding over a meeting with members of the Haryana unit of the BMS and officers concerned, he directed the latter to ensure that PACS employees got the benefits of ex-gratia and cashless medical scheme. Besides, he also directed the officers to resolve the issue of promotion of PACS employees in Central Cooperative Banks.

Regarding the demand for release of pending salaries of rural tubewell operators, the Chief Minister directed the officers to resolve this matter within 15 days.

140 acres for Flipkart  
@ Rs 3.22 cr per acre

In view of the increasing demand of warehousing from e-commerce companies, the Haryana Enterprise Promotion Board (HEPB) which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, approved allotment of 140 acres land of the HSIIDC to Flipkart Group for setting up its largest Fulfilling Centre in Asia, having a covered area of 3 million square feet in Patli Hajipur, Manesar.

The land allotted at the Rs 3.22 crore per acre to Instakart Services Private Limited, a Flipkart group company, will not only give impetus to further investments in the region but would further boost market access opportunities for lakhs of MSMEs, sellers from Haryana and north India.

25 pc treated water use  
target for 2021: CM

HARYANA REVIEW BUREAU

Haryana has set its sights high. Realising full well the need to conserve every drop of water which is becoming scarce by the day, the Haryana Government has set the target of using 25 per cent treated water this year.

Lot of progress has been made in this direction and treated water is being effectively used in horticulture, industries and thermal plants. The target for the next year has been fixed at 60 per cent. Budget has been arranged for this.

This was disclosed by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, while inaugurating first-of-its kind 10 KLD STP plant at Papitha Park, Fatehabad, in collaboration with Japanese company Daiki Axis India through video-conferencing. This sewerage water treatment plant has been set up at the cost of Rs 21 lakh.

Water remains a matter of concern all over the world today. Water requirement is increasing by the day due to increasing population and the requirement from industries. Since the availability of water is limited, sewerage treatment plants have to

be set up to meet water shortage. Dedicated efforts are being made to conserve water.

The Chief Minister said the state government was emphasizing on water management. Considering the high water consumption by the paddy crop, farmers are being given an incentive of Rs 7,000 per acre for adopting crop diversification under the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme in the state.

On 94,000 acres of land, farmers have adopted crop diversification, which has greatly benefited in water conservation.

Several schemes have been launched for water conservation and setting up sewerage treatment plants. Different technologies are being used in the state. The sewerage treatment plant set up at Fatehabad is a new project, in which new technology has been used and the benefit of which can be taken in the future.

While congratulating the citizens of Fatehabad, he said the plant had been established as a pilot project. The state government will consider setting up such projects for water conservation and reuse of water across the state after studying the same, he added.

Corona curfew, vaccination  
drive to go hand-in-hand

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

While intensifying the vaccination drive amid fear of the rampant spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the State, the Haryana Government has imposed corona curfew from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM, thereby prohibiting the movement of individuals for all non-essential activities.

During the curfew timings, no person will leave home or will move on foot or by vehicle or travel or stand or roam around on any road or public places during the above said hours.

However, the movement of persons tasked with law and order emergencies and municipal services/duties including Executive Magistrates, Police personnel, Military/ CA.PF, Personnel in uniform, health, electricity, fire, media persons with accreditation and Government machinery tasked with COVID-19 related duties would be allowed during the curfew hours.

There shall be no curbs on inter-state and Intra-State move-

ment of essential and non-essential goods. All Vehicles/persons in bonafide transit (inter-State/ intra-State) shall be allowed to pass, but only after verification of point of origin and destination.

Apart from this, hospitals, chemist shops and A.T.M. shall be allowed to remain open 24 X 7. Pregnant women and patients are also exempted from the corona curfew for getting medical/health services said the spokesperson.

Passengers going to or returning from the airport or railway station or I.S.B.T shall be exempted. Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

Meanwhile, more than 2.25 lakh people have been vaccinated in the state, adequate precautions are also being taken to make sure that the pandemic does not make any fresh inroads in the state.

All over the state, 1,195 vaccination centres have been set up.

Show I-card/PPO and get  
dental procedure done

By PARVEEN K MODI

The communication addressed by the Director General Health Services, Haryana, to various heads of department and wings containing the contents of the dental policy states in unmistakable terms what the seeker of the benefit should carry along, and how the health authorities should verify his claim.

The policy lays down that It will be the responsibility of the beneficiary to produce valid identity Card/ PPO No./ Aadhaar Card to the hospital in order to establish his/her identity of being a regular employee/pensioner/dependent.

And it will be the responsibility of health institutions to ask for the same and explain whether the dental procedure/surgery, required for their treatment, is covered under the reimbursement policy for dental procedures or not.

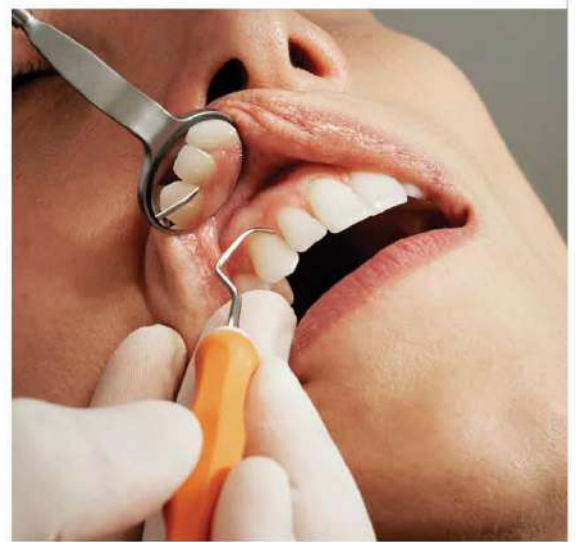
The communication has been addressed to all heads of department; managing directors of boards and

corporations; divisional commissioners; Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court; Principal Accountant General (ABLE and Audit); Director, Public Relations; directors of government medical colleges; deputy commissioners; and civil surgeons; CEOs/directors/medical superintendents of all empanelled private hospitals and medical colleges.

It says in case any fake bill or duplication of claim is reported, the beneficiary/institution is liable to be penalized with major penalties under the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, as amended from time to time.

In case, any wrong bill/fake treatment is reported and confirmed, the hospital will be liable for de-empanelment. It is the responsibility of the department concerned to send such a case, along with details/proofs, to the Health Department for taking necessary action.

The facility of reimbursement is applicable for only 31 dental procedures on outdoor basis, as mentioned in the table below:



# VIBRANCY IN REVENUE COLLECTION BEATS CORONA ODDS

- Excise and Taxation Department is the main revenue generating department of the State
- Tax is collected under GST, HVAT Act, CST Act and Haryana Validation Act, 2019
- Haryana contributes about 4.5 per cent to overall national collections of GST
- The state's excise revenue collection was Rs 6,361.20 crore in 2019-20
- Most of facilities like such permit, pass and appeal module are being provided online
- The government has formed a Traders Welfare Board to deal with issues and grievances of traders

During 2020-21, as many as 668 cases were decided in which Rs 90.13 crore as penalty was imposed on defaulters. In January last year, the state police in a well coordinated operation against the GST scam, busted four major gangs related to issuing or the registration of bogus firms involved in GST fake invoice bills scam which defrauded the government exchequer to the tune of over Rs 464.12 crore through fraudulent means.

Haryana is one of the nine Module-1 States with the purpose of implementation and enforcement of GST wherein the state shall design, develop and implement the back-end GST module on its own. The department has developed and implemented various back-end modules under GST laws such as registration, amendment, collaboration, payment, return and so on. Haryana has been a pioneer state in implementing GST, which came into force on July 1, 2017. It is worth mentioning that GST is an IT based taxation system.



By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

There is more than enough evidence to show how effectively Haryana has been able to contain the impact of the reverses caused by the coronavirus pandemic on its economy. Plugging of loopholes, enhanced monitoring and transparency have helped the state to retain its revenue vibrancy against all odds. Till March 4, 2021, the state's excise revenue collection has been pegged at Rs 6,214.07 cr against Rs 6,068.01 cr in 2018-19 and Rs 6,361.20 crore in 2019-20. It was Rs 3,459.19 crore in 2014-15. Buoyancy in revenue collection shows inbuilt strength of the state economy. During 2020-21, the state collected revenue of Rs 26,038 crore up to February 2021 against Rs 23,381 crore during the corresponding period of April to February, 2020, reflecting an increase of 11.36 per cent in the current financial year, a remarkable achievement despite the reverses caused by Covid-19 induced eco-

economic slowdown. Though constituting less than 1.4 per cent of the country's total geographical area, Haryana contributes approximately 4.5 per cent to total GST collection of the country. The Excise and Taxation Department remains the main revenue generating department of the state. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime came into force with effect from July 1, 2017. Haryana has been a pioneer state in implementing GST in the country. The state contributes about 4.5 per cent to the overall national collections of GST. "It's the result of a well crafted approach that the state's tax collection is on the higher side," said a senior government official, who did not wish to be identified. In March this year, Haryana collected Rs 5,709 crore in GST, excluding GST on imports, showing a growth of 17 per cent. It was Rs 4,874.29 crore in the last corresponding month. In February this year, the state's GST collection minus GST on imports was Rs 5,589.81 crore as compared to Rs 5,266.43 crore in the last cor-

responding month. The state's total SGST collection in 2019-20 was Rs 19,309.03 crore. A prototype of 'GST-PV' app for Excise and Taxation Department has also been launched through which tax inspectors will conduct physical verification of the premises of taxpayers with their smartphones. According to the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dnshyant Chautala, who holds the portfolio of Excise and Taxation Department, this app will help in quick detection of fake firms that are involved in passing inaccurate input tax-credits. It will also be helpful in registering tax, which will save the department both time and resources. Earlier, tax inspectors had to visit the firms and manually record entries after taking the documents, which often led to complaints of incorrect and inconsistent data filling. Now the whole process will be automated through this app and the tax-inspectors can feed their data directly. They will have the option to save cases for verification before visiting the premises in the field so that verification can be done after

the actual inspection. Earlier, some tax-inspectors used to fill the taxpayer's entries by sitting in their offices instead of going to the spot, but now they will have to go to the firm to fill it through this app. The App will automatically take GPS coordinates of the location and photographs of the premises at the time of physical verification and these details will not be required to be manually fed in the system, he added. Haryana's fiscal resilience was also reflected in the state's annual budget for 2021-22, which Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Ministry, tabled in the Assembly on February 1. The state has allocated Rs 8,585 crores as Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to be utilized on special projects that focus on health, agriculture and infrastructure. The state's total budget size is Rs 1,55,645 crore, an increase of 13 per cent over RE 2020-21 of Rs 1,37,738 crores. The budget outlay comprises 25 per cent as capital expenditure of Rs 38,718 crores and 75 per cent as revenue

expenditure of Rs 1,16,927 crore. Prudence and proper planning for years have helped Haryana keep its fiscal deficit within three per cent of GSDP complying with the norms of FRBM Act. Though the Union Government had enhanced fiscal deficit limit to 5 per cent of GSDP from 3 per cent for 2020-21 in view of Covid-10 pandemic, apt fiscal management helped the State restrict the market borrowing to about Rs 30,000 crore against the permissible limit of Rs 40,661 crore and consequently the fiscal deficit is expected to be less than 3 per cent of GSDP in 2020-21. For 2021-22, fiscal deficit has been pegged at 3.83 per cent of GSDP, which is well within the prescribed limit of 4 per cent set by the 15th Finance Commission. The state has successfully contained the debt liability. Debt to GSDP ratio is estimated at 23.27 per cent in the RE 2020-21. For the BE 2021-22, it has been pegged at 25.92 per cent. This is much less than the stipulated limit of 32.6 per cent of GSDP recommended by the 15th Finance Commission for 2021-22.



# Nabard oils rural infra push with funds

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

As rural development requires multiple interventions from different stakeholders, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has done commendable work in Haryana during 2020-21 by giving a fillip to the grassroots level developmental works.

Nabard provided assistance of Rs 35,000 crore to Haryana during 2020-21, giving a boost to the state's overall development with special focus on agricultural credit through commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and cooperatives; infrastructure development through dedicated funds; strengthening of rural financial institutions, including short-term cooperative credit structure; women's empowerment

through Self-Help Groups (SHGs); microfinance through joint liability groups; and several other new initiatives on natural resources management with special focus on soil and water conservation.

According to a senior Nabard official, the amount sanctioned under its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during 2020-21 touched an all-time high of Rs 1,130 crore and disbursements aggregating Rs 1,030 crore. The long-term financial assistance during 2020-21 released to commercial banks, RRBs, cooperative banks, small finance banks, NBFCs and MFIs for financing the agriculture, allied and off-farm sectors in the state has reached Rs 3,495 crore as against last year's disbursement of Rs 1,571 crore, registering a growth of 122 per cent.

Similarly, the short-term refinance touched all-time high of Rs

6,472 crore against Rs 5,073 crore, registering a growth of 28 per cent over last year. As a part of its business development initiatives taken during FY 2020-21, Rs 2,3616 crore was disbursed towards credit facility to the state government federations, direct refinance assistance to co-operative banks, and assistance for infrastructure development to state owned corporations.

"NABARD has been in the forefront of promoting Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) aimed at supporting small and marginal farmers for aggregation of their produce. We have so far supported the formation of 91 FPOs in the state," said the official. Nabard supports RRBs and co-operative banks for various activities under such financial inclusion initiatives as installation of ATM, micro ATMs, RuPay Kisan Cards, incentivising coop-

erative banks for switching over to CBS platform, mobile vans to RRBs and cooperative banks for demonstrating technology based banking in rural areas, popularising digital banking transactions through going digital camps, he added.

In line with the Digital India Campaign of the Central Government, Nabard has taken up digitization of SHGs in 11 districts of Haryana under its pilot project E-Shakti. Bankers can access this portal and assess eligibility of SHGs for credit facility through system generated reports. As the national implementing entity, it implements projects under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) focused on ecosystem development for crop residue management in different districts of Haryana through awareness creation and in situ residue management.

- Under micro irrigation fund, NABARD sanctioned Rs 688 crore against which Rs 22 crore was disbursed during 2020-21.
- It has projected a ground level credit flow target of Rs 15,4000 crore for 2021-22 for financing by banks under priority sectors such as agriculture, SMEs and other priority sectors in Haryana, which is 5.15 pc higher than projections for FY 2020-21.
- During 2020-21, NABARD disbursed a grant of Rs 3 crore from its Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) to the rural financial institutions of the state.

## Steady upswing in wheat procurement

By AJAY BHARDWAJ

Procurement seasons come and go but season 2021 will be marked for factors more than one. It is for the first time that the golden grain is being procured at more than 500 mandis done up for the purpose across the state; it is for the first time that the farmers will be paid 9 per cent rate of interest if payment for the crop procured is delayed by more than 72 hours; and, it is for the second time in a row that procurement is being done under the shadow of the pandemic with Covid appropriate norms firmly in place, sanitization, masking et al.

Wheat procurement process, kicked off on April 1, is picking up pace by the day. It is on the upswing. In the first ten days, more than six lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been procured at the minimum support price (MSP) at 396 mandis in a hassle-free manner and payment made to the farmers on time.

Till the week ended April 10, as many as 58,335 J-Forms of 57,505 farmers had been created and Rs 38.48 crore paid against 2,650 J-Forms directly into the farmers' accounts.

In order to ensure that the entire operation is carried out smoothly

and expeditiously, the Manohar Lal Government has issued directions to all concerned that the wheat procured should be lifted from the mandis on a daily basis so that the crop does not accumulate and the farmers do not face any difficulty in selling their produce.

Senior officers have been deputed to inspect the mandis and ensure that there are no obstacles in the procurement work.

Taking a significant step in the interest of Arthiyas, the state government has decided to pay 9 per cent interest on the payment made

after 15 days of the end of the crop procurement season. Which means about Rs 1.18 crore will be paid as interest to 9,828 Arthiyas in the state. Those who were paid 15 days after the end of the Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21, (i.e. after January 1, 2021) will be paid

9 per cent interest on the delayed principal amount.

Meanwhile, details of 9,828 arthiyas have been obtained from the e-Khareed portal. Prior to payment, the report received from the concerned arthiya, and, after confirmation of the amount, the payment will be transferred to the bank account of the arthiya.

As many as 6,435 arthiyas associated with the Food and Supplies Department will be paid about Rs. 63.8 lakh, whereas 3,351 arthiyas associated with Haryana Warehousing Corporation will be paid about Rs. 17.21 lakh and interest of Rs. 37.30 lakh will be given to 42 cooperative societies of Hafed.

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



# OUT TO MAKE USE OF EVERY DROP, HARYANA GIVES IRRIGATION INFRA A MASSIVE BOOST

By RAJEEV RANJAN ROY

Irrigation has received a major boost over the recent years, bringing much respite to the farmers who constitute the backbone of the state's economy. It is the topmost priority of the state government led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal. From water conservation to taking water to every piece of land for cultivation, Haryana has witnessed remarkable expansion and streamlining of the irrigation facilities over the last six years.

Presenting the state Budget for 2021-22, the Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister, announced an enormous amount of Rs 8,483 crore: Rs 5,081 crore for irrigation and Rs 3,402 crore for public health and engineering. Conservation and economic use of water is the government's credo. The next two years have been dedicated to be celebrated as the 'Water Biennial 2021-23' to focus on conservation, management, reuse, recharge and recycling of water.

The government is making sincere and concerted efforts to construct the Sathj-Yamuna Link Canal to take fair share of Haryana from the waters of Ravi and Beas rivers. The government has allocated Rs 100 crore in the 2021-22 budget. The state has also made a number of institutional and structural changes such as the constitution of The Haryana Water Resources

(Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority to achieve a sustainable water resources regime and facilitate a holistic view of the ground and surface water for judicious, equitable and efficient use.

The state has also strengthened the existing Command Area Development Authority and renamed it as Micro Irrigation and Command Area Development Authority to promote and implement micro irrigation in addition to regular command area development programmes for increasing agricultural production and productivity, and increase farmers' income in Haryana while conserving the scarce water. The 'Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority' has been declared as the nodal agency for coordination and monitoring of the development work of ponds.

Specific development works such as laying of sewerage pipelines, pucca drains for drainage of waste water to pond, waste water treatment, digging of ponds, construction of embankments, plantation of aquatic plants or grass track around the pond, water supply and drainage in the pond, minor irrigation with additional water, fisheries and pond water quality monitoring, etc., will be looked after by this authority.

In order to promote micro irrigation and utilize the treated waste water from 35 existing STPs, a project for the installation of community-based solar or grid powered integrated micro-irrigation infrastructure with on-farm micro-irrigation in

- The gross area sown in Haryana during 1966-67 was 45.99 lakh hectares.
- During 2018-19, the gross area sown is likely to have been 64.90 lakh hectares.
- The contribution of area under wheat and paddy to the gross area sown in the state was 61.63 per cent during 2018-19.
- The area under paddy crop was 25.34 lakh hectares in 2019-20. Area under commercial crops, that is, sugarcane, cotton and oilseeds has shown fluctuating trends.
- Food grains production reached an impressive level of 184.20 lakh tonne during 2019-20 as compared to 25.92 lakh tonne in 1966-67.
- Production of rice was 51.98 lakh tonne in 2019-20, while that of wheat was 118.77 lakh tones
- Production of oilseeds and sugarcane during 2019-20 was 11.75 lakh tone and 77.30 lakh tonne, respectively.
- The production of cotton was estimated at 24.85 lakh bales in 2019-20.
- More than 60 per cent export of Basmati rice is taking place from the state.

Haryana, without any perennial source of surface water and dependent upon its share in various inter-state agreements, is managing the surface water resources well. The state has developed an extensive canal network consisting of 5,11,521 channels having a length of 14,125 km. The Bhakra System has total 521 canals with a total length of 5,867 km, the Yamuna system has total 472 canals covering 4,311 km and the lift system has total 528 canals covering 3,947 km.

The state has a vast network of drainage of about 800 drains covering 5,150 km length. As a first step towards 'Har Khet Ko Paani', a project for improving capacity of various pump houses and canals of the Jawaharlal Nehru Lift Irrigation System costing Rs 145.52 crore has been completed. Under the National Water Mission (NWM), Haryana Irrigation Research and Management Institute has been entrusted to ensure security, safety, sustainable development and management of water resources for Haryana. The rehabilitation work costing Rs 400 crore has been taken up on various distributaries/minors during 2019-20 and 2020-21.

government has got approvals for projects of rehabilitation of parallel Delhi branch, augmentation canal, Jawaharlal Nehru Canal and Hansi Branch from the NABARD. Work on these projects is likely to start in the first quarter of 2021-22. Besides, a project for the rehabilitation of Bhalaut branch has been posed to NABARD. Rehabilitation of the old dilapidated irrigation canal network in the state, control of seepage and other losses, and increasing the carrying capacity of canals are among the topmost priorities of the government.

The rehabilitation work of about 110 channels is in progress. In addition, the government is committed to providing water at each tail of southern Haryana by putting special thrust on improving capacity and efficiency of lift irrigation systems in Rewari, Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani.

The state government has prioritized re-construction and renovation of old dilapidated bridges on canals and drains in a phased manner. It is vigorously pursuing the construction of up-stream storage dams - Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi on river Yamuna for getting assured water supply from Yamuna River and its tributaries Giri and Tons.

For the revival of holy Saraswati river, a project for the construction of Adibadi Dam, Somb Saraswati barrage and Somb Saraswati reservoir, with net live storage capacity of 1,680 hectare meters during non-monsoon, is under consideration. The state government proposes to construct a dam upstream of Hathnikund barrage in the Yamuna river course lying from Ponta Salub to Kalesar. This will store flood water generated by the balance about 20.43 per cent of the left out catchment area from the already proposed three upstream storage dams, namely, Renuka dam, Kishau dam and Lakhwar-Vyasi dam.

The proposed dam will also act as a balancing reservoir for these upstream storage dams to give the dam authorities free hand for peaking of power as per their requirement. In order to recharge the groundwater in dark zones with rain water standing in the fields, a scheme for the construction of 1,000 recharge bore wells has been approved under 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' initiative. About 8,000 acres of land that gets submerged every year shall benefit from this scheme. Work on these recharge wells shall be completed by the end of September 2021.

Haryana is spread over an area of 44,212 square kilometers with an area covering 1.3 per cent of the country. The state contributes a significant amount of wheat and rice to the central pool. It is India's fourth largest producer of cotton. Haryana has also made rapid strides in development of the industrial sector. Haryana's structural transformation from an agrarian state to industrial state, with services sector recording robust growth, the state has shown progressive development towards achieving sustainable development goals. Though Haryana is geographically a small state, the contribution of the state to the national gross domestic product at constant (2011-12) prices has been estimated as 3.8 per cent as per Quick Estimates of 2019-20.

various districts of the state has also been approved under the Micro Irrigation Fund of the NABARD.

In order to increase and restore the carrying capacity of major irrigation networks to utilize available surplus water during monsoon period in river Yamuna, the



# The harvest of golden crop

PHOTOGRAPH BY VINAY MALIK



## CAMPUS CORNER

# JC BOSE STUDENT BAGS RS 30-LAKH PACKAGE

By SHAGUN KAPOOR

The J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad, has emerged as the latest hub for such leading recruiters as Daikin Air-Conditioning, Samsung R&D, Amazon, Adobe System, HCL and TCS. This year, the university has recorded the highest annual salary package of Rs 30 lakh with the participation of about 225 companies during the placement drive.

Prof Dinesh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, said that despite Covid-19 outbreak, the students have proved themselves in all spheres with great placement records during this session. It is a matter of pride when top recruiters repose faith in the potential of the university students and make them secure placements even before their final semester.

During the event, the Dean of Placement, Alumni and Corporate Affairs, Dr Vikram Singh, said besides IT and computers, we are observing good response from the companies hiring in core sectors, which include mechanical and electrical engineering. Likewise, Amazon, Samsung R&D, Airtel and Adobe are some of the reputable names that are part of the recruitment exercise.

In order to improve the rate of placements, the university has been conducting soft skill workshops, mock interviews and technical

talks so that the companies from multiple sectors recruit more students of the university.

However, engineering students have always been the first choice, said the Training and Placements Officer of the university. Most of the companies have been holding interviews online as physical interaction is not possible and several students have already received their job offers, he added. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Training and Placements Officer of the university, said that about 410 students who would be passing out in June, 2021 had already been placed.

These include 11 selected by Samsung R&D Delhi, six by Amazon, four by Airtel, two by Adobe System and BNY Mellon, one each by Media.net, Squad Stack and Palo Alto and the annual salary packages from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 30 lakh has been offered to selected candidates.

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## HEALTH FOR ALL ... IS OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Let us Unite In Corona Fight

Extensive Arrangements During COVID-19

A healthy soul resides in healthy body. Keeping this in view, our Government is committed to strengthen the health services on top priority.

- Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana



### Haryana: The First State in the Country

- In Anemia Mukt Bharat campaign
- To provide Hepatitis B & C medicines free of cost
- To incorporate the injectable contraceptives in available Family Planning measures.
- To implement Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat)

**COVID-19 Response:** Recruitment of 595 regular doctors and 206 AYUSH medical officers; Devishield & Covaxin Vaccination Campaign continues; Plasma banks established for Covid Patients; Haryana Govt. has provided financial assistance to about 17 lakh families under various schemes; e-Sanjeevani OPD Started; Under National Tele Consultation Services, an online Stay Home OPD.

**Other Initiatives:** Free Health Facilities (200 camps, 12 types of tests, 17 types of dental operations); Health and Wellness Centres (478 Health & Wellness Centres are functional, targeting over 100 lakh population by September 2022 and 1.48 lakh March, 2022); Yoga and Fitness centres (April-December will open 1000 Yoga and fitness centres); National Cancer Institute (Medical Cancer centre established at Gurugrah, 1000 acres in Bahki (Punjab)); Health Institutes (53 On-premise 100 CMCs, 100 PSCs, 2000 out health centres); Ayurveda Institute (Chief Minister AYUSH University in Faridkot, National Institute of Ayurveda in Faridkot); Haryana Cashless Health Scheme (Facility for all Government employees, government and their dependents for inpatient treatment); Expansion in Number of Beds (Net capacity of all health facilities will be increased by million 200 along with CO and COVID services); Dental College (Shrihar Singh Memorial Government Medical College in Nuh (Haryana)); New Medical Colleges (Medical colleges to be established in every district: Soni in Soni, Yamunanagar, Kaithi & Shearn); Centre for Cancer Sciences (To be established in Mahindra Arogya Medical Village, Gurgaon).

Awareness with Vaccination, Adopt Strict Measures