

Haryana Review

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Sankalp Yatra turns into a mass movement

En route, people are reaping a rich harvest of benefits

By Parveen K Modi

Having rewritten the meaning of governance by making it good governance, and redefining administration by taking it to the people and making it a two-way traffic, the Manohar Lal Government has now lent a new meaning to the word 'yatra' which, dictionary says, generally has religious overtones.

The much-vaunted Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, launched by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, on November 15, 2023, with the vision of transforming developing India into a developed nation by 2047, has been innovatively integrated by the visionary Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, with his immensely popular Jan Samavd, a reach-out programme that truly reaches out. Which proves the point that his appetite for reaching out to the people gets whetted, not satiated, by every outreach.

And this integration has made the Yatra go well beyond its nomenclature and remit. Empirical evi-



dence and first-hand account suggest that it has assumed the connotations of a mass movement of sorts, unseen and unheard of in scale, magnitude, appeal and involvement.

Aiming at bringing the last person in the queue to the forefront, the Yatra draws in hundreds of people as it meanders through the lanes and by-lanes of cities and towns, offering people real-time solutions to the issues that dog their path in every-

day life. It will be apt to say that people are reaping a harvest of benefits.

Welfare policies

Besides making people wise on the steeped-in-welfare policies of the Central and the state government, the Yatra is bringing the administration to people's doorsteps to answer their asks, redress their concerns, meet their unmet needs, and align them with the vision of the

Prime Minister to make India a developed nation by 2047. It is gaining traction and momentum by the day.

Between November 30, 2023 when it was launched by the Chief Minister from Fatehpur Billoch village in Faridabad, and December 11, the Yatra has traversed hundreds of kilometers, attracting instant participation and response even in the back-of-beyond areas.

On the inaugural day, diverse

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programmes were organized in 59 gram panchayats across the 22 districts. Approximately 47,000 persons, including 19,000 women, actively participated in these events, writing a new chapter in the book of public engagement.

They collectively pledged their commitment to propel India towards the status of a developed country. As many as 7,400 health camps were organized. With a view to effectively communicating the government's achievements and policies, short films on developmental

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Haryana logs 3rd highest growth in collections

Revenue mop-up up 44 pc in Nov

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

There are no two opinions that higher tax collection has a profound impact on both development and people's lives. Haryana, under the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, logged an impressive 44 per cent increase in GST collection in November, 2023, the highest among the big states, and third in the country. The first and second are Nagaland (99 pc) and Arunachal Pradesh (48 pc).

According to the Union Ministry of Finance, Haryana collected Rs 9,732 crore as GST revenue in November as compared to Rs 6,769 crore mobilized in November 2022. The credit goes as much to the economic growth of the state as much to the anti-evasion measures taken by the state government.

The buoyancy in tax figures assumes significance as increased government revenue through taxes enables the financing of essential public services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, lay-



ing the foundation for sustainable development. Adequate funding for education, for instance, can enhance the quality of schools and promote literacy, ultimately equipping citizens with the skills needed for a competitive workforce.

Better than neighbours

Haryana's tax collection is better than that of the neighbouring states. The GST mop up in November 2023 in Punjab stood at Rs 2,265 crore, Himachal Pradesh Rs 802 crore, Chandigarh Rs 210 crore, Uttarakhand Rs 1,601 crore, Delhi Rs 5,347 crore, Rajasthan Rs 4,682 crore, Uttar Pradesh Rs 8,973 crore, and Jammu and Kashmir Rs 469 crore. The gross GST revenue collected at the national level in November, 23 has been pegged at Rs 1,67,929 crore.

The surge in GST collections not only mirrors the state's economic advancement, but is also a positive sign for overall development. It reaffirms the effectiveness of the GST system, which was implemented nationwide with the concept of 'One Nation, One Tax'.

It is worth mentioning that Haryana was among the top five states in the country to collect the maximum amount of GST revenue in the first six months of the current fiscal year, which underscores the state's steady economic growth and financial stability. In the first six months of the current financial year

(April-September), Haryana's total tax collection was Rs 32,076 crore as compared to Rs 27,155 crore during the corresponding period in the previous year.

Surge in collections

The surge in GST collections not only mirrors the state's economic advancement, but is also a positive sign for overall development. It reaffirms the effectiveness of the GST system, which was implemented nationwide with the concept of 'One Nation, One Tax'.

The simplification of the GST process has not only benefited entrepreneurs but has also strengthened government revenues, as per the statement. The state government is modernising and strengthening the infrastructure of the Excise and Taxation Department.

The adoption of digitalization in tax collection processes is a notable step forward. The department is focused on minimizing revenue leakages while maximizing collections.

In addition, the department is committed to meeting its revenue collection target of Rs 57,931 crore, as set in the state budget.

We are ready for simultaneous polls, says CM

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Much in line with Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's call for 'one nation, one election', Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal has mooted the idea of simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Haryana next year.

While interacting with the media in Hisar recently the chief minister underscored the fact that "his government was poll ready". He said his government and the party were ready for simultaneous elections and it for the national BJP's central election committee to give go-ahead for it.

Moreover, it was prerogative of the Election Commission to take the call but "we are ready for it", the chief minister said. Commenting on the BJP's victory in the three states, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh, the chief minister observed that it has endorsed the party's policies and actions.

Policy tweaked to lend connectivity thrust



By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

In a significant move aimed at enhancing the availability of high-quality technology and communication infrastructure to foster connectivity throughout the state, the Haryana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal here on November 27, 2023, approved the revision of the Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Policy-2023. The updated policy supersedes the Communication and Connectivity Policy-2017 and aligns with the amended Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, as notified by the Union Ministry of Communication (Department of Telecommunications) in 2022.

The decision assumes significance as communication and connectivity infrastructure serves as the back bone of our interconnected world, enabling seamless interaction and information exchange across the globe. Comprising a network of physical and virtual components, this infrastructure encompasses a wide array of technologies, including telecommunications networks, internet backbones, and satellite systems.

Connectivity infrastructure

The visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal is ensuring the robustness and efficiency of communication and connectivity infrastructure, which is crucial for fostering economic growth, innovation, and social development. In the digital age, communication infrastructure not only facilitates the rapid transmission of data but also supports the proliferation of emerging technologies such as 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence.

The decision of the Cabinet encourages the integration of cutting-edge technological advancements in the telecom sector, including Fibre to the Home (FTTH), and innovative business models like the Open Access Network (OAN), which separates physical access to the network from service delivery.

The revised policy establishes a framework for the creation of enabling 5G infrastructure including through ducts alongside roads, al-

One-time scheme for settlement of dues

In a proactive measure aimed at expediting the recovery of outstanding dues and reduce the litigations, the Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal here on November 27 approved a unique one-time settlement scheme titled 'The Haryana One Time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues 2023' with a view to move ahead in the GST regime with lesser baggage of arrears and litigations.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister in his Budget Speech had said that such a settlement scheme for recovery of arrears would be introduced under the 'Vivadon Ka Samadhan' Scheme.

The new scheme is designed to facilitate the recovery of outstanding dues governed by various Acts of the Excise and Taxation Department in the pre-GST regime.

The scheme will be effective from the date of its notification.

Applicable Acts covered under this scheme include the outstanding arrears relating to the seven Acts, namely, Haryana Value Added Tax Act 2003, the Central Sales Tax Act 1956, the Haryana Local Area Development Tax Act 2000, the Haryana Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act 2008, the Haryana Tax on Luxuries Act 2007, the Punjab Entertainment Duty Act 1955, and the Haryana General Sales Tax Act 1973.

lowing multiple service providers to share the same infrastructure to optimize Right of Way (RoW) availability and prevent frequent disruptions caused by multiple infrastructure providers digging in the RoW.

Under the newly approved schedule, if the nodal officer fails to either grant permission or reject the application within 45 days from the submission date, permission will be deemed granted. The Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district will be the single contact person for all clearances.

The importance of communication and connectivity infrastructure in today's interconnected world cannot be overstated. These infrastructures serve as the backbone of modern societies, facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, and resources at an unprecedented pace.

A robust communication infrastructure, encompassing technologies such as the internet, telecommunications networks, and data centres, is essential for the seamless flow of data

across borders and industries. It plays a pivotal role in fostering global collaboration, enabling businesses to operate efficiently, and promoting innovation in various fields.

Connectivity infrastructure, including broadband networks and wireless technologies, is crucial for bridging digital divides and providing equal access to information and opportunities.

7 more castes in SC list

The Cabinet also accorded approval to a proposal regarding the deletion of names of seven castes, namely, Aheria, Aheri, Heri, Hari, Turi or Thori from Serial No.1, amendment of the word Jangam-Jogi as Jangam at Serial No. 31 and omission of Rai Sikh caste from Serial No. 50 in the state list of Backward Classes (Block-A). With this decision, these castes will be eligible to take benefit under the Scheduled Castes category.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said that the Haryana Scheduled Castes Commission will send a written communication to the Central Government for the inclusion of 'Naik' community of the state into the list of Scheduled Castes category. As per the directives of the Government of India, further action in this regard will be taken.

Panchayats to sell land

The Cabinet has also approved the proposal of Development and Panchayats Department regarding the sale of land measuring 350.5 acres of Panchayati land of three villages Asan Kalan, Khandra and Bal Jattan to Indian Oil Corporation Limited Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex for the first phase expansion of IOCL Panipat Refinery.

IOCL will purchase land measuring 140 acre 6 kanal 12 Marla of Asan Kalan village, 152 acre 2 kanal 15 Marla of Bal Jattan village and 57 acre 2 kanal 19 marla of Khandra village at the rate of Rs 2.2 crore per acre.

In addition, IOCL shall also pay Rs 10 lakh per acre to the Gram Panchayats for development works in the respective village.

22,000 stage III and IV cancer patients to get assistance

In a bid to alleviate the financial burden faced by eligible cancer patients by providing them with monthly financial help, the Haryana Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal here on November 27, 2023 approved a scheme for giving financial assistance for Stage III and IV cancer patients. With this decision, around 22,808 patients will get the benefit.

This landmark decision is of paramount significance as cancer treatment, with its associated medical expenses, places an overwhelming strain on individuals and their families, jeopardizing their financial stability. Extending financial help to critical cancer will address not only the formidable physical challenges of bat-

tling cancer but also the significant financial burden that often accompanies the disease. The monthly financial assistance of Rs 3000 provided under this scheme will be in addition to the benefit being availed under any other social security pension scheme by the applicant.

Rs 2750 per month

The financial assistance to eligible patients shall be given at equal to old Age Samman Allowance. Initially, from now onwards, the patients will receive monthly assistance of Rs 2750, while from January 2024 the amount will be Rs 3000. It is worth noting that during the inauguration of the Atal Cancer Care Centre (ACCC), Ambala Cantonment, Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal had announced a pension for cancer patients of Stage III and IV.

A person eligible for financial assistance under the scheme shall be a citizen of India and a resident of Haryana and should be residing in the state for the last 15 years on the date of submission of the application, and should have Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP). All age group Stage III and IV patients will be eligible under the scheme and patients whose family income is less than Rs 3 lakh per annum, except the amount of other Social Security Pension Schemes will be eligible.

This scheme shall come into operation from the date of its publication in the official gazette. The assistance amount would be directly transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through PFMS.

Giving infra a shot, overall growth a leg-up

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

Infrastructure plays a critical role in the socio-economic development of the state, serving as the backbone that supports various facets of daily life and fosters overall growth. It encompasses a wide array of essential systems and facilities including transportation networks, energy grids, water supply, communication systems, and public services.

Under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, Haryana government is leaving nothing unturned to facilitate commerce, enhance connectivity, and improve the quality of life for citizens. Efficient transportation infrastructure, for instance, not only accelerates the movement of goods and people but also contributes to economic productivity.

Today Haryana boasts of having one of the best road networks in the country. However, the pace of investing in and maintaining a

strong infrastructure foundation continues unabated to build more resilient and thriving societies, fostering economic prosperity, and improving the overall well-being of communities in the state.

The comprehensive road infrastructure has significantly reduced travel time and expenses, allowing people to traverse the entire state within a few hours by vehicles. Twenty new national highways spanning 1130 km have been declared in the state, with eight projects already completed and 12 currently underway. This has ensured that every district in the state is now connected to the National Highway network.

Minimizing delays

In a strategic move to alleviate traffic congestion around the national capital Delhi, two expressways—Kundli-Manesar-Palwal and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal—have been operationalized, provid-

Rs 388-cr drinking water project

Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal on December 4, 2023 gave a big gift to Jind residents on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Saint Shiromani Sen Ji Maharaj as he laid the foundation stone of the project regarding providing drinking water from the Bhakra Main Line in Jind city.

The said canal-based drinking water supply project will be constructed at Rs 388 crore. This will increase the availability of clean drinking water to the Jind residents. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Municipal Council Office building constructed at a cost of about Rs 15 crore.

In addition, various road widening and strengthening initiatives, such as the Jind-

Hansi road, Jind-Bhiwani road, and improvements to several other roads, were inaugurated, amounting to crores in expenditure.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister also inaugurated Asan village Water Works for the smooth supply of drinking water in Asan and Shiva villages, which will cost approximately Rs 5.3 crore. The Chief Minister also sanctioned Rs 75.87 crore for augmenting sewage systems in different colonies of Narwana town.

The special maintenance of Jind-Julani Janjgir road, with an expenditure of Rs 3.82 crore, and the special repair of Jind-Safidon road connecting Jind-Rohtak via Jind-Gohana road crossing the Delhi-Bathinda railway line, costing Rs 3.85 crore, was also inaugurated.

Moreover, the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction work of roads on both sides of the canal, from Kandela Bridge to Delhi-Bathinda railway Line Bridge, with an expenditure of Rs 5.98 crore, was conducted. The Chief Minister also inaugurated developmental works like construction of road from Primary School to Julani Minor, construction of road from Main Julani Road to Narwana Road, construction of Pandu Gate, construction of Jayanti Devi Gate, construction of synthetic track in Eklavya Stadium and also laid the foundation of park construction. These initiatives, costing crores, are aimed at improving the civic infrastructure and overall living standards of the region.

Rs 156.2 crore sanctioned for improving 11 highways

In a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and facilitating seamless transportation across Haryana, Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal has granted administrative approval for improvement of 11 state highways at an estimated cost of Rs 156.20 crore.

Giving more information in this regard, an official spokesperson said the project include Improvement of Rewari Pataudi road (SH-26) in Rewari District, covering 2.50 km with an estimated budget of Rs 1.73 crore, improvement of Rohtak Kharkhoda Delhi Border road (SH-18) in Sonapat district, covering 9.59 km with an estimated cost of Rs 10.75 crore and Lohani Kairu Obra Behal road (SH-5) in Bhiwani district, spanning 25.50 km at a cost of

Rs 25.17 crore.

The approval has also been granted to improve Hansi Tosham road (SH-12) in Bhiwani district, spanning 15.80 km at a cost of Rs 15.73 crore, Kala Amb Sadhaura Barara Shahbad road (SH-4) in Yamunanagar district, spanning 20 km at a cost of Rs. 11.11 crore and Improvement of Jind Barwala road (SH-10) in Jind district, spanning 7.15 km with an estimated budget of Rs 3.90 crore.

Furthermore, the improvement of Kaithal Khaouri Road (SH-8), spanning 24.05 km with an estimated budget of Rs 10.11 crore has been approved along with Barwala Hisar Siwani Singhani road (SH-19) in Hisar, spanning 28 km has been approved with an estimated budget of Rs 26.36 crore.

ing efficient routes and minimizing delays for drivers. This initiative aims to streamline traffic flow in and around Delhi.

Furthermore, Ambala to Kotputli Greenfield Corridor (152-D) has been successfully completed at a cost of Rs 10,646 crore. This corridor facilitates rapid and smooth vehicular movement, allowing vehicles to cover vast distances in just a few hours. The completion of these infrastructure projects marks a significant milestone in enhancing connectivity and transportation efficiency across the state.

As road infrastructure serves as a fundamental component of transportation networks, facilitating the seamless movement of people and goods, the government has invested Rs 3,642 crore to construct 6,863 km of new roads, alongside improving 41,869 km of existing roads at a cost of Rs 21,133 crore.

Additionally, 17 toll tax barriers were removed to further facilitate smoother traffic flow.

To address specific traffic bottlenecks, strategic upgrades were made, converting Panchkula-

Yamunanagar, Ambala- Kaithal, Jind-Narwana-Punjab border, and Sonapat-Jhajjar national highways into four-lanes.

This transformation has not only enhanced connectivity, reducing travel time and costs for businesses and individuals alike but is effectively contributing to economic growth by promoting trade, commerce, and tourism, fostering sustainable development and ensuring the well-being of communities.

63 railway over bridges

The government has successfully completed the construction of 63 railway over bridges and underground bridges, investing Rs 2577 crore. Another 50 bridges are currently in progress, promising substantial relief from traffic jams upon completion.

The government's introduction of the metro service has proven to be a highly effective and convenient mode of transportation for the public. The YMCA to Ballabgarh metro service, implemented at a cost of Rs 580 crore, has signifi-

cantly improved travel for residents in the surrounding areas.

Similarly, Bahadurgarh-Mundka (Delhi) metro service, undertaken at a cost of Rs 2029 crore, has further enhanced connectivity.

Another notable addition is the metro rail service from Badarpur to Mujesar (YMCA Chowk) at a cost of Rs 2494 crore and from Sikandarpur station to Sector-56 at a cost of Rs 2143 crore, providing efficient transportation options.

The initiation of Regional Rapid Transport System Connectivity Project between Sarai Kalekhan-Karnal and Sarai-Klekhan to Alwar Rajasthan Border, with an investment of approximately Rs 70000 crore, marks a significant step towards modernizing and expanding transportation infrastructure.

Besides this, the approved metro rail projects from Narela to Kundli, HUDA City Centre-Cyber City Gurugram, and from Rezangla Chowk to Sector 21 Dwarka are poised to further enhance metro connectivity in the region, showcasing the government's commitment to advancing public transportation.

(Photo by Vinay Malik)



Freezing Sankalp Yatra as i



It criss-crosses lanes, streets

Compiled by Vinay Malik



Response massive, results impressive

By Parveen K Modi

The response is instant, participation massive, and results are impressive. Criss-crossing the lanes and streets, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Jan Samvad Yatra is drawing crowds by the thousands as it meanders its way through different cities and districts. In the first 12 days—it was set rolling by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on November 30, 2023 and is slated to culminate on the Republic Day—it has covered large parts of the state.

Having taken off from the rural areas, it will traverse 6,222 villages and towns and span the entire state in 50 days. As many as 72 LED vans have been strategically deployed at vantage points to disseminate information to every nook and corner of the state.

The response had to be what it is. For, the Yatra does not only disseminate information about the plethora of Central and state governments' public welfare schemes but also provides the citizens a ready platform of Jan Samvad to get their concerns addressed and problems solved.

Their issues resolved and needs met en route, people are finding participation in the Yatra satisfying and rewarding.

This partly explains the instantly enthusiastic response made overwhelming by the active participation of both union and state ministers, MPs and MLAs.

This has significantly boosted people's confidence in the Yatra. And the results find manifestation in the participants reaping a harvest of benefits. These include:

PPP errors rectified

People in different towns and

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programmes are shown through vans equipped with films, digital displays, promotional materials, etc. And to motivate the youth, competitions are organized for students in every village and ward, with winning students receiving due recognition.

Simultaneously set rolling by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, other Cabinet colleagues, MPs, and MLAs in all districts of the state, it has achieved much more than any yatra can ostensibly aim to. Sewn with the sinews of Antyodaya, it has achieved four avowed objectives.

First, the Yatra has emerged as a purveyor-cum-disseminator

Tech-savvy CM mans a drone



In a pioneering move towards technological innovation, the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Center' during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. On this occasion, the Chief Minister, Mr

Manohar Lal, actively observed and controlled a drone flown at the Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Centre. Notably, he has been an early adopter of the drone technology, harnessing it to achieve the Lal Dora-free status for villages.

cities are taking advantage of the Yatra to rectify errors in their Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP), family identity cards, introduced by Manohar Sarkar. This has helped many get pensions restored.

Figures vary from place to place but on the fifth day alone, as many as 2,300 persons visited the counters to get errors corrected in the PPP.

At 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' programmes beneficiaries receiving pensions shared their experiences at a number of places. Hailing the issuance of PPP cards, they said the cards had relieved the elderly of the hassle of running to offices to get their pensions.

Health check-up camps

Adhering to the principle of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah: Sarve Santu Niramaya," the Manohar Government is providing better healthcare to the citizens of the state. As a part of this commitment,

health check-ups for people are conducted as a part of the Yatra which-ever town it reaches.

On Day Six alone, approximately 13,500 people underwent health check-ups at 1,120 health camps.

Additionally, about 8,200 persons were screened for TB, aligning with the Chief Minister's vision of fostering a healthy Haryana.

Furthermore, about 300 beneficiaries were presented with Ayushman cards under the Ayushman scheme, inching closer to the broader goal of extending health care support to those in need.

Street vendors facilitated

The Yatra is actively capitalizing on the PM Swanidhi Scheme, aimed at economically empowering the street vendors.

At PM Swanidhi camps which form part of the Yatra, comprehensive information about the scheme is disseminated to street vendors.

of information and awareness about the countless number of people-centric welfare policies and programmes of the double-engine government—Mr Narendra Modi's at the Centre, and Mr Manohar Lal's in the state.

Second, serving the spirit of Antyodaya, it is playing a true enabler enabling those on the margins and the ones left-out to avail themselves of benefits of schemes.

People are reaping a harvest of benefits. These include gas connections provided to the eligible under the PM Ujjwala Scheme; health cards issued under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, free check-up at health camps; medical and AYUSH services made available at stalls; and errors in Parivar Pehchan Patra

(PPP) rectified at stalls set up en route.

Third, the Yatra, with the added feature of Jan Samvad, is providing yet another opportunity to the powers that be to be face to face with the people to listen to them, redress their grievances, and solve their problems, something the Chief Minister relishes. Fourth and last but not least, the Yatra has succeeded in inspiring and galvanizing people into feeling proud of the progress made by the state, and taking a vow to make a solid contribution in placing the state and the country on a high-growth trajectory, the shared vision of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister.

Gita Mahotsav opens with flair

Lord Krishna statue to be made with soil from 48 Kos

By Ajay Bhardwaj

The sacred land of Kurukshetra, the cradle of Indian culture and the birthplace of the 'Shrimad Bhagwad Gita,' reverberated with divine convergence of spirituality, culture, and art as the International Gita Mahotsava started on December 7.

The grand event, during which the timeless teachings of the Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta have filled the air, would carry on till December 24 even as the Vice President Jagdeep Dhanka would inaugurate the main programme on December 17.

This time Assam has joined to actively participate as a partner state in the Mahotsav.

It was during his visit to Kurukshetra in 2014 that Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi had expressed the commitment to make every possible effort to recognize Kurukshetra as a significant centre of the teachings of the Gita.

Following the Prime Minister's guidance, the Haryana Government has been organizing the Gita Mahotsav at the international level in Kurukshetra since 2016.

Since then it has been gaining tremendous success and popularity over the past seven years.

In 2019, the festival expanded its reach beyond the country, and was celebrated in Mauritius and London. Additionally, it took place in Canada in September 2022, and this year, there are plans to organize the International Gita Mahotsav in



the United States of America in April next year.

Fair authority to be formed

The Vice President will officially inaugurate the festival with Gita Yajna and worship at Brahma Sarovar on December 17. Later, he will also inaugurate the three-day International Gita Seminar at Kurukshetra University.

The seminar, scheduled to run until December 19, will witness the participation of Gita enthusiasts, scholars, and researchers from India and abroad. They will present their research papers on the theme of world peace and harmony, inspired by the teachings of Shrimad Bhagvad Gita.

Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal, who has been monitoring the Mahotsav celebrations recently

informed that the International Gita Mahotsav Fair has been progressing towards financial self-sustainability.

In a strategic move akin to the organization of the Kumbh Mela, a dedicated fair authority will be established for the International Gita Mahotsav.

This autonomous body will independently organize and manage the event. The government will appoint a fair officer to oversee the arrangements, while the fair authority will take charge of planning and executing the festival.

The Chief Minister urged all the residents of the state to come together and recite the Gita shloka collectively for one minute at 11 am on December 23, in honour of Gita Jayanti. During this brief session, participants would be encouraged to recite three verses from the Gita.

All citizens are invited to partake in this Gita lesson either from their homes or workplaces, with the option to connect through the Gita app for a shared experience.

Crafts and Saras fair

A Crafts and Saras mela on the banks of the holy Brahmasarovar has been a big attraction in the festival. This fair showcases the talents of nationally renowned artists and craftsmen.

A dedicated Haryana Pavilion, featuring folk dance, crafts, small-scale industries, and local cuisine, has been established to expose tourists and pilgrims to the rich culture of Haryana.

Additionally, exhibitions highlighting the development and progress of Haryana have been organized by various departments, providing

valuable information about government welfare schemes and regional advancements.

The Mahotsava programmes will be held in every district for two days on December 22 and 23.

On December 23, a conference focusing on the pilgrimages within the 48 Kos Kurukshetra will take place at Kurukshetra University. Representatives from 164 pilgrimage committees in Kurukshetra will participate, bringing soil and water from their respective pilgrimages to later create an idol of Lord Krishna.

Gita recitation

On the same day, Gita Jayanti, a global Gita recitation will be led by 18,000 students in Kurukshetra. To commemorate Gita Jayanti, Deepotsav will be organized at all 164 pilgrimage sites in Kurukshetra on December 23.

The Chief Minister said that fun fair activities will be organized for devotees in the fair area from December 7 to 24. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various competitions, including Rangoli, clay modeling, Sanjhi, pot decoration, fancy dress, tableau, and poster making, scheduled from December 17 to 24.

To engage participants further, an online Gita quiz competition has been ongoing since November 26 and will continue until December 6.

Over 70000 citizens, including students, have registered for this online competition, reflecting the widespread interest in the event. In addition, a successful Gita Marathon was organized in Kurukshetra on December 3, further contributing to the festival's vibrancy.

CM asks scientists to address agri issues

By Parveen K Modi

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has raised concern about the diminishing quality of crop production due to the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, leading to adverse impacts on human health, the impact of climate change, and asked agriculture scientists to address these challenges.

He was speaking after inaugurating the international conference on 'Strategies for Global Food and Nutritional Security, Sustainability and Wellness' (Nutri-2023) held on CCHAU campus. It is being attended by distinguished scientists from renowned research institutions across 14 countries.

Significant strides

Highlighting the significant strides Haryana has made in the agricultural sector, with its products being exported to many countries, he emphasized the collaboration between the state government and various coun-



tries worldwide to not only augment agricultural production but also enhance its quality. The Chief Minister said that concrete steps had been initiated for the uplift of the agricultural sector.

Incorporation of new technologies has led to remarkable achievements in the agricultural landscape, marked by record-breaking production. However, this success has

brought forth new challenges. Laying stress on the pivotal role of scientists, he expressed confidence in the ability of the scientific community to overcome these issues and ensure a happier and healthier life for future generations.

Highlighting the emotional connection between the farmers of the country and the university, Mr Manohar Lal emphasized the cru-

cial role played by the university's scientists in achieving self-reliance in the field of grains for the nation.

900 from 15 countries

The three-day international conference has attracted participation from 900 scientists and researchers representing 15 countries, including America, Britain, Canada, Kazakhstan, Japan, Egypt, France,

Germany, Tunisia, Brazil, and Morocco. During the conference's inaugural session, Professor Arthur C. Redecker, co-winner of the IPCC Nobel Prize from France, and Professor Sergio C.

Caparada, a Faculty Fellow from Texas A&M University in America, delivered lectures on technical topics. Distinguished scientists from renowned research institutions within the country have also graced the conference with their lectures.

Earlier, the Chief Minister was apprised of the establishment of Agri Business Incubation Centre on the campus. It aims at fostering start-ups led by young entrepreneurs.

Over the past four years, this centre has facilitated initiation of 100 startups by disbursing a total amount of Rs 6 crore.

These have successfully employed tissue culture technology to develop superior varieties of banana, sugarcane, and processed food products derived from coarse grains.

Graft is a cancer, eliminate it :CM

By Parveen K Modi

The cancer of corruption has a disproportionate impact on the impoverished, infringes on the rights of the poor, and deprives them of their due in society. This menace should be eliminated through collective social effort to propel the country and the state forward on the path of progress.

This was stated by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, while addressing a programme on the International Anti-Corruption Day at the Public Works Rest House, in Panchkula, on December 9.

To mark the day, officers and officials participated online at 25 locations in nine districts, concurrently undergoing Mission Karma yogi training.

16 officers honoured

Honouring 16 officers and employees for their exemplary work in combating corruption in the state, the Chief Minister acknowledged the global discourse on corruption and highlighted its pervasive nature worldwide.



Calling for the eradication of economic and moral corruption, Mr Manohar Lal likened the evil to cancer which would have fatal consequences. He urged the citizens to draw inspiration from figures like Lal Bahadur Shastri, Chanakya, and social worker Jagdish Ahuja. He lauded the commitment of the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, to maintain the image of the political community achieved through transparency in recruitment based

on merit. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary, Mr Sanjeev Kaushal, said corruption is a manifestation of dissatisfaction, jealousy, and inferiority complex.

Individuals with inferiority complex often engage in corrupt practices. The state government has utilized vigilance as a potent tool to eliminate corruption, offering over 600 citizen facilities and services through Saral Centres, linked to the auto appeal system, he added.

Mission Karmayogi to skill 3 L employees

The Mission Karmayogi programme aims to impart moral lessons to the employees and officers of the state. Under this initiative, all 3.5 lakh employees and officers of the state will receive training by March 2023. The mission will help in eliminating corruption and fostering character development in the state.

This was stated by the Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption Day while virtually addressing the training programme being conducted at more than 25 locations in nine districts of the state under the Haryana Mission Karmayogi program.

The Karmayogi programme is raising awareness among the employees and officers, making them alert and motivated to-

wards morality. This, in turn, enables them to play a crucial role in eradicating corruption, often referred to as the cancer afflicting the state.

Through the Karmayogi Mission program conducted via HIPAA, 967 master trainers have been prepared at the state level. They will consistently educate employees and officers about morality, duty, and responsibilities during their service.

The impact of this training will extend beyond their professional lives, influencing their social interaction and serving as a source of inspiration for the youth in the future. Under the Karmayogi Mission, 8622 employees and officers in the field have been trained on ethics and responsibility.

Excellence awards in good governance

Haryana floats new scheme to pat efficient officials

By Ajay Bhardwaj

As a large number of administrative initiatives have been taken by the Manohar Lal government to add integrity and efficiency in governance, the state government, in a yet another novel initiative, has decided to reward officials who lead by example in good governance.

An official notification of the Haryana Good governance Awards scheme 2023 was recently issued by the state government, a step that would promote administrative excellence in big measure.

Chief Secretary, Mr. Sanjeev Kaushal said the Scheme had been designed with specific objectives, including the recognition and rewarding of outstanding contributions to good governance.

A grand awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on Governance Day, which falls on December 25, 2023, which also happens to be the birthday of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Effort is to recognize and reward outstanding contributions to good governance initiatives at the state and district levels.

The scheme will apply to all employees in Groups A, B, C, and D across various departments, boards, corporations, statutory authorities, missions, societies, institutes, universities, and public sector undertakings under the State Government.

However, it would exclude Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, All-India Service Officers and contractual manpower.

Flagship scheme awards

The state-level Flagship Scheme Awards will honour exceptional contributions to flagship schemes implemented by the state government. Winning teams will receive a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Chief Secretary, and a cash reward of Rs. 51,000 per flagship scheme. The cash reward will be distributed equally among team members, regardless of rank or status.

State-level awards

The state-level awards will recognize exceptional performance in various initiatives and schemes even as the winning teams will receive a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Chief Secretary, and a cash reward distributed as follows: 1st prize of Rs. 51,000, 2nd prize of Rs. 31,000, 3rd prize of Rs. 21,000. As with the Flagship Scheme Awards, the cash reward will be distributed equally among team members.

District-level awards

The district-level awards will recognize exemplary contributions at the district level. Winning teams will receive a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Divisional Commissioner based on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, and three cash prizes including first prize of Rs. 31,000, second prize Rs. 21,000, and third prize Rs. 11,000 will be distributed equally among team members.

THREE CATEGORIES

Economic sector

The Subject areas of Commerce and Industries under Economic Sector includes Ease of Doing Business, Growth of Industries, Growth in MSME Establishments.

The Subject areas of Agriculture & Allied Sectors under Economic Sector includes Growth Rate of Agriculture and Allied Sector, Food Grains Production, Horticulture Produce, Milk Production, Crop Insurance.

The Subject areas of Environment under Economic Sector includes availability of State-level Action Plan for Climate Change, Change in Forest Cover.

The Subject areas of Economic Governance under Economic Sector includes Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Growth Rate, Growth in Per Capita Income, Fiscal Deficit as a Percentage of GSDP, State's Own Tax Revenue Receipts to Total Revenue Receipts, Debt (Total Outstanding Liabilities) to GSDP.

Social sector

The Subject areas of Human Resource Development under Social Sector includes Quality of Education, Retention Rate at Elementary School Level, Gender Parity, Enrolment Ratio of SC and ST, Skill Training Imparted, Placement Ratio Including Self-employment.

The Subject areas of Social Welfare under Social sector includes Sex Ratio at Birth, Health Insurance Coverage, Rural Employment Guarantee, Unemploy-

ment, Housing for All, Economic Empowerment of Women, Empowerment of SCs, STs, OBCs, and Minorities, Disposal of SC/ST Atrocity Cases by Courts, Rights and Protection of Children.

The Subject areas of Citizen Centric Governance under the Social sector includes Number of Services Provided Through Electronic Format. The Subject areas of Judiciary and Public Security under Social sector includes Conviction Rate, Availability of Police Personnel, Population of Women Police Personnel, Disposal of Court Cases, Disposal of Cases by Consumer Courts.

The Subject areas of Public Health under Social sector includes Operationalisation of 24X7 Facility at PHCs, Availability of Doctors & Paramedical Staff at PHCs, MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate), IMR (Infant Mortality Rate), TFR (Total Fertility Rate), Immunization Achievement.

Infrastructure

The Subject areas of Public Infrastructure & Utilities under Infrastructure sector includes Access to Potable Water, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Towns Declared ODF, Villages Declared ODF, Connectivity to Rural Habitation, Access to Power Supply, Availability of 24X7 Power Supply, Energy Availability Against the Requirement, Growth of Per Capita Power Consumption.

50 cyber crime hotspots in 7 states: DGP

Haryana Review Bureau

In a major initiative to combat cybercrime, the Haryana Police have identified 50 hotspot areas across seven states in the country cyber fraud cases are known to originate from. To effectively tackle these cases, cyber teams have been deployed in these areas to not only control cyber fraud activities but also apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Disclosing this, the Director General of Police, Mr. Shatruijeet Kapur, said that the maximum number of cyber fraud cases reported in Haryana originated from Rajasthan, with 21 identified hotspot areas in the state. Similar hotspots have been identified in other states, including Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Delhi, West Bengal, and Telangana. Cyber teams are regularly dispatched to these states to actively counter cyber fraud activities.

Moving forward in the realm of cyber security, a collaborative effort is being undertaken by nodal officers of banks and the Cyber Helpline 1930 team.

This collaboration aims to freeze cyber criminals' finances within the critical first hour of reported incidents, working closely with bank personnel to facilitate the process.

Mr. Kapur urged the public to remain vigilant and avoid clicking on suspicious links on their phones.

Additionally, people must not disclose personal information related to their bank accounts to anyone. Even a minor oversight can make individuals vulnerable to cyber fraud.

Free college education for girls

CM's missionary zeal to empower girl child

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Taking yet another leap forward to empower every girl child in Haryana the Manohar Lal government has taken a momentous decision of imparting free college education to girls coming from families with an annual income of Rs 1.80 lakh.

Making this announcement Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal free education to such girls would be provided both in government and private colleges.

In addition, he also announced that the government would cover half of the college fees for girls from families with incomes ranging from Rs 1.80 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. The fees for private colleges, where applicable, will be borne by the Haryana Government.

The announcement is in line with various other initiatives that the Manohar Lal government has been taking from time to time to empower every girl child.

Vivah Shagun Yojana

The Haryana government has been making significant contribu-



(Photo by Vinay Malik)

tions through the Mukhyamantri Vivah Shagun Yojana, providing financial assistance to poor and needy families for the marriage of their daughters.

The Yojana was launched in October 2015 with the aim of providing relief to families living below the poverty line from the burden of marriage expenses.

Over the past more than eight years, an amount of Rs. 821 crore has been disbursed as Shagun for the marriages of 258,000 girls across the state.

In addition, the state government provides varying amounts

ranging from Rs. 31,000 to Rs. 71,000, depending on different categories, to beneficiaries under the Vivah Shagun Yojana.

This Shagun amount is also provided to all families below the poverty line with an annual income of less than Rs. 1,80,000, supporting them during their daughters' marriages.

The scheme has now been expanded for all daughters in the family, whereas previously it was limited to two daughters.

Significantly, there is no need to repeatedly visit government offices to receive the marriage Shagun.

Instead, the amount is directly credited to the beneficiaries' bank accounts after they complete the online application process on the shaadi.edisha.gov.in portal and register their marriage.

Aapki Beti-Hamari Beti

The Aapki Beti-Hamari Beti scheme is another visionary step by the Manohar government wherein the government has provisioned an amount of Rs. 21,000 to be given to a girl child upon her birth.

Scheduled caste and economically weaker families receive Rs. 21,000 on the birth of their first girl child, while all other families receive the same amount on the birth of their second and third girl child.

This amount is deposited as a lump sum in the name of the daughter with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. When the daughter turns 18, she receives an approximate amount of Rs. 1 lakh.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

Acknowledging the financial responsibilities associated with a daughter's education or marriage as she enters adulthood, he said that the government has taken a significant step by introducing the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.

HAU, IOC ink MoU to promote beekeeping

Haryana aims to generate interest among landless, unemployed, and illiterate rural men and women towards beekeeping.

In collaboration with Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSH AU), Hisar, it will identify such people who are interested in setting up small beekeeping units as a form of self-employment.

They will be offered both financial and technical assistance.

Disclosing this, an official spokesperson of the university said that an MOU for the purpose had been signed between the university and Indian Oil Corporation Limited in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and Executive Director of Northern Regional Pipeline on behalf of the IOC.

The main objective of the initiative is to popularise bee keeping, especially among women, to establish self-employment opportunities.

It will not only increase livelihood resources for farmers, especially women, but also offer health benefits.

IT CENTRE

Chautala opens first of its kind UITDC

Haryana Review Bureau

In what has been billed as a ground-breaking step in the field of information technology, the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Dushyant Chautala, has inaugurated the University IT, Data and Computer Centre (UITDC) at Chaudhary Devi Lal University in Sirsa.

The state-of-the-art and first-of-its-kind centre in the state has been established at CDLU, signi-



fying a remarkable stride towards technological efficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Chautala highlighted the importance of technology in the present era and commended CDLU for becoming proficient in this domain.

He urged the staff to leverage IT facilities for the nation's development. Encouraging the generation of new ideas, he stressed the role of professors in inspiring the students to acquire the latest knowledge.

Mr Chautala also suggested that future plans be aligned with global standards based on insights into educational institutions and technologies adopted by developed nations.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajmer Singh Malik, emphasized the infusion of human qualities in education to elevate teaching to its highest level. He acknowledged the role played by CDLU in fulfilling the higher education

needs of the region.

Mr Chautala inspected the newly inaugurated UITDC building, constructed at a cost of more than Rs 9.8 crore.

The three-storey building features 20 rooms, including seven computer labs, a system analyst room, video conferencing room, and hardware and software stores.

Approximately 350 computers will be installed, paving the way for complete digitalization of the university and providing significant benefits to students.

YUVA SAMMELAN

CM reaffirms commitment to make state drug-free

Haryana Review Bureau

Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal has reaffirmed his commitment to make the state drug-free as he gave a call for joint efforts of parents and social organizations to achieve the target.

Addressing a Youth Sammelan at the Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, recently the chief minister underscored the need of instilling values in children as a paramount strategy to eliminate the roots of addiction from society.

The Youth Sammelan was organised by Swami Dharmdev, the founder of the National Sanatan Mahasangh. The chief minister reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to combat addiction in Haryana.

Awareness campaign

The Chief Minister also flagged off the awareness campaign against substance abuse led by the Sarv Kalyan Manch Haryana.

He pointed out that with a special focus on breaking the supply chain of narcotics, a joint headquarters in Panchkula for eight states has been established, and successful confiscation of over Rs. 140 crores worth of narcotics.

Recognizing the indispensable



role of youth in the nation-building process, the Chief Minister called for harnessing the positive energy of the younger generation to fortify the foundations of a resilient India.

Underscoring this commitment, a special program for youth in collaboration with the Nirankari Mission was conducted as part of an ongoing campaign.

The chief minister also highlighted how the government has launched the Viksit Bharat Jan Sankalp Yatra campaign with an aim of bringing the benefits of various schemes directly to the doorsteps of those who have been deprived.

In order to give a renewed impetus to expeditious disposal of drug-related cases the Haryana government proposes to set up four more fast track courts in the state.

Earlier, the chief minister had announced to constitute a new task force under the Nasha Mukta Haryana campaign.

This task force would comprise members from all social and religious organizations, government representatives, police personnel, and representatives of concerned departments.

It would lead to a joint campaign in the State by all the stakeholders.