

Haryana Review

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



Cracking the whip on corrupt, criminals ▶▶ P3



CHIRAYU brings cheers to Antyodaya families ▶▶ P7



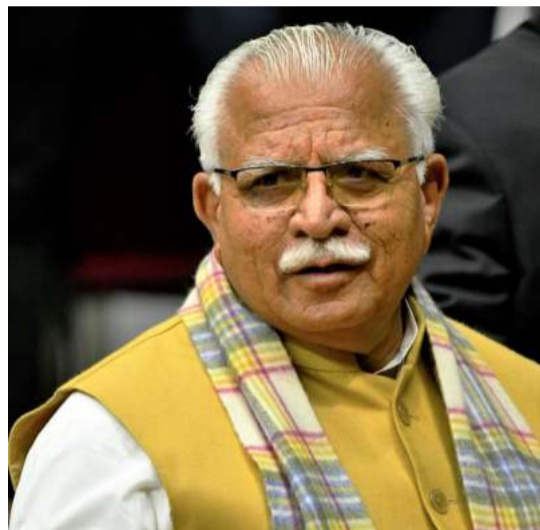
2023 inherits rich economic legacy to build on GSDP makes ascending graph; GST collections buoyant; exports are soaring

By Parveen K Modi

The nascent 2023 may attempt to look at the legacy it has been bequeathed by the now-history 2022 from any prism, but the finding will be: it is wholesomely rich, especially on the economic front. Any legacy comes laced with the task to build on it. And if the resolve of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, to make 2023 an inclusive Antyodaya Year is any indication, the government is determined to make the New Year annus mirabilis, a Latin term which means wonderful year.

Prising the legacy open with a pry, one finds that firing on all cylinders, the economy is on the uptick. There is a trade-off between fiscal prudence and development; Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) makes an ascending graph; the collection rate of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is akin to the run rate in a 20-20 match; and the overall debt stock has been contained.

Besides, exports are soaring; the taps of domestic investment and FDI are in full flow; and the per



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Manohar Lal
Chief Minister

capita income in the small state is more than the advanced states of the country. The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, rightly says that the economic condition of Haryana is better than many other states.

We are committed to pursuing the twin objectives of prudent financial management and meeting key development priorities without losing sight of fiscal consolidation, vital for sustaining fiscal targets. The economic shock induced by the Pandemic notwithstanding, Haryana

has successfully kept its fiscal deficit within 3 percent of GSDP, complying with FRBM regulations”, the Chief Minister said.

Fiscal deficit

Even in the 2020-21 Pandemic year, the fiscal deficit was 2.9 per cent against the permissible limit of 5 percent and 2.99 per cent in the Revised Estimates 2021-22 against the permissible limit of 4 per cent. Further, there has been a decreasing trend in Revenue deficit of the state.

It has come down to 1.4 per cent of the GSDP in 2021-22 RE from 2.83 per cent in 2016-17.

Encouragingly, the revenue collection is buoyant. GST collection and IGST settlement in FY 2022-23 (up to October 2022), increased by 23 per cent to Rs 16,316 crore against Rs 13,263 crore (up to October 2021) in 2021-22. The receipt under Stamp & Registration has logged an increase of 30 per cent to Rs 5,941 crore up to October 2022 against Rs 4,568

crore up to October 2021. Similarly, state excise increased by 22 per cent to Rs 5,736 crore in 2022-23 (up to October 2022) against Rs 4,702 crore in April to October 2021.

The overall debt stock has been contained, with debt-to-GSDP ratio remaining at 23.27 per cent in 2020-21 and 24.98 per cent for fiscal 2021-22 (RE) against the limit of 32.6 per cent of GSDP prescribed by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Neither the state nor its PSUs / Boards/ Corporations have defaulted in repayment of loans and state government guarantees have never been invoked.

Until 2014, hardly anyone had spotted and tapped Haryana's export potential. After the Manohar Lal Government assumed office, several schemes were implemented to promote industrial exports. Consequently, Haryana has taken a quantum leap in its export graph. According to official figures Haryana exported goods worth Rs 68,032 crore in 2013-14. Exports increased four-fold to touch Rs. 2,17,222 crore in 2021-22.

On the uptick, economy firing on all cylinders—PP 4-5

Punjab dodging SYL issue, says CM

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Amid a call by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi that all states should make water a subject of cooperation and coordination, Haryana has taken strong exception to the recalcitrant stance of the Punjab's AAP government on the issue of construction of the SYL and has decided to bring the Punjab government's "non-cooperative attitude" to the notice of the Supreme Court.

As the meeting called recently by the Union Water Resources Minister, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to bring about an amicable solution between Punjab and Haryana over the contentious matter of the SYL failed once again, the Haryana chief minister Sh Manohar Lal said that no consensus could be reached as the Punjab Chief Minister and his administrative wing kept saying repeatedly that there was no water in Punjab to spare for Haryana.

This was the third meeting called by the Union Water Resources minister following the Supreme Court directive to the Centre to mediate in the matter for an amicable solution.

The Chief Minister said that the Punjab government is not even accepting the Supreme Court's decision wherein the Act brought by the Punjab government in the year 2004 has been repealed. "Punjab Chief Minister says that the 2004 Act still exists which is completely unconstitutional," added Sh. Manohar Lal.

SC to be informed

"We will now inform the Supreme Court about Punjab's non-cooperative stance and accept the decision of the Supreme Court in this regard", added Sh. Manohar Lal.

The Chief Minister clarified that SYL is the right of Haryana residents and he is hopeful that the state will get this right. He said that SYL water is very important for Haryana. Now it is necessary to fix a timeline in this matter so that the availability of water to the farmers



of the state can be ensured, added Sh. Manohar Lal.

It is a well-known fact that despite two Supreme Court judgments, Punjab has not completed the construction of SYL. Instead of implementing the decisions of the Supreme Court, Punjab tried to obstruct their implementation by enacting the Cancellation of Agreements Act in 2004.

It is worth mentioning that under the provision of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966, according

to the order of the Government of India dated March 24, 1976, 3.5 MAF of water was allocated to Haryana out of the surplus water of Ravi-Beas. Due to non-completion of SYL canal, Haryana is using only 1.62 MAF of water. Punjab is illegally using about 1.9 MAF of water from Haryana's share by not completing the SYL canal in its region.

Punjab and Rajasthan have been in fact using about 2600 cusecs of water from Haryana every year. If

this water had reached Haryana, it would have been used to irrigate 10.08 lakh acres of land.

Officials say that due to non-availability of this water, the groundwater level in South-Haryana has been also going down considerably.

Due to non-construction of SYL, farmers of Haryana irrigate by using expensive diesel and running tubewells with electricity, which incurs an additional burden of Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 150 crore every year. Due to non-formation of SYL in Punjab region, the irrigation potential created to irrigate 10 lakh acres in Haryana is lying idle.

In addition the state also bears the loss of 42 lakh tonnes of food grains every year. Haryana would have generated an additional 130 lakh tonnes of food grains and other crops had SYL been established in 1983 in accordance with the 1981 agreement. The total value of this agricultural produce at the rate of 15,000 per tonne is Rs. 19,500 crore.

Gurdwara management structure formalised

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Rules for the management of Sikh Gurdwaras in Haryana were laid down in the Assembly which passed the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Amendment Bill, 2022 to further amend the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014 in the recently-concluded winter session.

A new provision has been substituted for the existing provision to sub-section (8) in section 16 of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014 following which all the forty one members so nominated by the Government shall elect their President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary and six members, who shall be the members of the Executive Board of the Committee in its first meeting to be convened and presided over by the officer appointed by the Government.

The ad hoc committee and the Executive Board shall cease to exist after the formation of a new Executive Committee. After the newly elected Haryana Gurdwaras Management Committee assumes charge, the ad hoc committee will hand over the charge to the newly elected committee.

Provided that if elections are not held under section 11 within a period of eighteen months, a new ad hoc committee shall be nominated by the Government for a further period of eighteen months or until the elections are held, whichever is earlier. After the



Photo by Vinay Malik

newly elected Haryana Gurdwaras Management Committee assumes charge, the ad-hoc committee will hand over the charge to the newly elected committee.

A new sub-section (9) shall be inserted after sub-section (8) of the Act. Accordingly, the government may nominate one member of the committee or ad-hoc committee as the patron, who shall be a member of the elected executive board.

The **Haryana Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022** has been passed to amend the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994.

The Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 has been amended to define 'Core area' which means the built-up area

within the municipal limits planned or developed fifty years before the coming into force of this Amendment Act and which due to urbanisation and efflux of time required replanning of land use and also includes built-up area of village abadi; which has been included in the city limits, later.

As amended, the Director, not later than six months from the date of declaration under sub-section (1) or within such further period as the Government may allow, indicating the controlled area and including the terms and conditions proposed to be implemented in the controlled area and prepare plans showing the nature of the plan and submit it to the government. But mixed land use shall be permitted in the core

area subject to planning norms and payment and recovery of charges as notified by the Government.

The existing cities have developed without planning. Hence no land use has been defined in the development plan in the existing cities. Further, where controlled areas have been declared all around the municipal limits, the vacant areas within the said municipal limits have been earmarked for various land uses in the development plans, which are only of advisory nature as, under the 1963 Act, the provisions of the Act do not apply in these areas.

Further, the existing town or core area, which is basically mixed land use area, has neither been defined in the Punjab Scheduled

Other bills passed

Haryana Shree Mata Bhimeshwari Devi Mandir (Ashram)

Beri Shrine Bill, 2022

Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Haryana Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Haryana Enterprises Promotion (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Haryana Legislative Assembly (Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members) Second Amendment Bill, 2022

Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Haryana Appropriation (No 4) Bill, 2022

Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963 nor in Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994.

Therefore, to clarify the confusion, there is a necessity to define the 'Core Area' by carrying out an amendment in the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 by inserting the definition of core area and providing provision related to mixed land use in the core area.

11,000 teachers to be appointed

Haryana Review Bureau

Tablet on each seat

Education Minister, Sh. Kanwar Pal said in the Assembly that in order to overcome the shortage of teachers in the state, the state government has sent a letter to the Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula, to fill 3863 posts for PGT of various subjects.

In addition, the matter pertaining to the recruitment of 7471 vacant posts of TGT to be sent to the Staff Selection Commission is under process. Recruitment on these posts will be conducted soon.

Responding to a question during the Vidhan Sabha session, the Education Mini-ster said that apart from these, cases have also been invited by the department to fill the vacant posts of PGTs in various subjects of promotion quota through promotion.

To ensure that there is no shortage of teachers in any school of the state, a letter has been written to the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam to fill 877 PGT and 5624 TGT posts on contract basis. Apart from this, a letter has been sent to fill 952 PRT posts to the Haryana Staff Selection Commission.

Sh. Kanwar Pal said that 1871 principals are working in all 14,223 government schools of the state, while 89,696 teachers including 742 headmasters are working on various posts. Out of these, recruitment on various posts are also being done by promotion.

On the initiative of the Leader of the House and Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal, the winter session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha helped the members of the House become tech-savvy.

Haryana, which has been on the forefront to usher in the green revolution in the country, is now also becoming the head of information technology (IT). For the first time, the members of the House made full use of the tablets installed on the seats of the MLAs in the Vidhan Sabha.

Haryana is the third state in the country, whose Assembly has become paperless. The Speaker apprised the House during the winter session that the steps taken to go paperless have resulted in a significant reduction in printing work and have helped in environmental protection.

Commission for Scheduled Castes

Cooperation Minister, Dr. Banwari Lal informed the House that under the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes Act, 2018, the commission has been constituted by a notification issued by the government.

The Cooperation Minister was replying to a question raised during the winter session. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal for constituting the State Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Action plan to check pollution

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

The Haryana Government has prepared the Yamuna Action Plan, which envisages control of pollution in all the 11 drains in Haryana that discharge treated or untreated effluents into the Yamuna River.

Due to the control of pollution in these drains, the polluted water does not fall into the Yamuna River, from which the Agra and Gurgaon canals emerge.

This information was given by Haryana Transport Minister Mr Mool Chand Sharma in response to a Calling Attention Motion regarding polluted water in Agra and Gurgaon canal during the Winter Session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. He informed the House that the Haryana Government has constituted a committee in this regard.

The MLAs of Gurugram, Mewat, Faridabad and Palwal were made members and MS, HSPCB as Member Convener. Besides this, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Principal Secretary, Irrigation, have also been nominated as members. Five meetings of this committee have been held, he said.

Mr Sharma informed that it is being regularly reviewed at the level of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal and Chief Secretary Mr Sanjeev Kaushal.

All the stakeholder Departments involved in treatment of sewage and industrial effluent such as PHED, ULBD, HSVP, HSIIDC and GMDA participate in

the meeting to submit the action taken report regarding implementation of the Action Plan.

The Minister informed action plan involves construction and upgradation of the existing STPs or CETPs, laying of sewage and interception of sewage from unapproved areas, regular monitoring of water polluting industries by Haryana State Pollution Control Board and taking strict legal actions against such industries, etc.

He further stated that due to the implementation of this action plan, the water quality of Agra canal has improved in the last few years.

The Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) was 40 in the year 2017, which will be 27 during the year 2022. He informed that as a result of the implementation of the action plan, the problem is going to be resolved in the near future.

An inter-state meeting will also be held soon with the Chief Minister of the neighbouring state, he said.

Mr Mool Chand Sharma informed that Gurgaon and Agra canals originate from Yamuna River at Okhla barrage in Delhi region. Agra Canal flowing straight reaches the border of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh near village Karman.

The Gurgaon Canal is the major source of irrigation water in Mewat area and a large population is adversely affected due to pollution caused by Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Cracking the whip on corrupt, criminals

By Parveen K Modi

The year 2022 that has rolled into history, saw the Haryana State Vigilance Bureau adopt a proactive stance against corrupt officers, big and small, in line with the zero-tolerance policy of the Manohar Lal Government, and the Haryana Police come down heavily on the criminals, proclaimed offenders and bail-jumpers in the state. While the Vigilance Bureau (VB) registered a record number of 246 cases related to graft during the year, including 170 traps, the highest in the last 10 years, the Haryana Police arrested more than 11,700 criminals, proclaimed offenders and bail-jumpers, and gave the informers Rs 24.8 lakh as award money. And if the plans of the Vigilance Bureau and the Haryana Police are any indication, there will be no let-up in the crackdown on the corrupt and the criminals in 2023.

2022: VB conducts 170 raids, arrests 220 officers, recovers Rs 6 cr

Adopting a pro-active stance against corruption in government departments, the Haryana State Vigilance Bureau, in line with the zero-tolerance policy of the Manohar Lal Government, registered a record number of cases related to graft in 2022. The Bureau registered 246 cases, including 170 traps, the highest in the last 10 years.

The VB conducted 170 raids and recovered Rs 6,21,70,230 on the spot and after search operations, and arrested 193 government servants, including 27 gazetted officers, 166 non-gazetted officers and 27 private individuals, last year.

According to Mr Shatrujeet Kapur, Director General, State Vigilance Bureau, Haryana, out of the 246 cases, 170 were registered on raids/trap and 76 cases were registered on enquiries/special checking. On an average, 18 public servants were arrested on corruption charges every month.

Detailing how VB was able to crack down on such a large number of corrupt officials, Mr Kapur said the focus had been shifted from junior-level staff like clerks, patwaris, linemen, police personnel etc. to senior ranks, who are often the kingpins in running organised corruption rackets.

Spurt in raids

The remarkable spurt in the number of raids and arrests of senior government officials is being seen as a clean-up act by the VB under the directive of the Chief Minister as a part of his zero-tolerance policy towards corruption at all levels.

Mr Manohar Lal has approved various initiatives of VB like setting up of a revolving fund to provide 'trap money' to the aggrieved people lodging complaints against government officials demanding bribe. With this, the complainant no longer has to worry about arranging the trap money from their own pocket.

The government has also sanctioned 809 additional posts for strengthening the VB, changed the system of appointment of independent witnesses to check leakage of information and created six divisional Vigilance Bureaus.

Further, a sum of Rs 100 crore has been allocated to strengthen vigilance related initiatives in Haryana for 2023-2024.

Highlighting the arrest of some high-ranking officials, Mr Kapur said one District Town Planner was caught red-handed taking a bribe of

Rs 5 lakh. Co-accused tehsildar was also arrested while a Deputy Excise & Taxation Commissioner was caught red-handed taking Rs 50,000 in bribe. A Jail Superintendent was also arrested in a trap case.

HCS officers in the net

Apart from these, five HCS officers were arrested during the year on corruption charges. Further, two Chief Engineers, one Superintending Engineer & one Executive Engineer, a Chief Accounts Officer and One Joint Director of the Urban Local Bodies Department have been arrested on the charge of siphoning off public funds.

A Superintending Engineer and Accountant of Municipal Corpora-

tion were caught accepting Rs 1,40,000 in bribe, two Executive Engineers of Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board & Irrigation Department were caught accepting Rs 1,60,000 in bribe, two Sub Divisional Officers of Power Department and co-accused were caught red-handed taking a bribe of Rs. 3,00,000; a Mining Officer of Mining & Geology was caught red-handed taking Rs. 1,00,000, a Building Inspector of Urban Local Bodies Department was caught taking Rs. 5,00,000 and a Taxation Inspector of Excise & Taxation was caught red-handed taking Rs 2,00,000 in bribe.

Mr Kapur disclosed that 46 police personnel, including two Inspector/SHOs, a retired DSP of

Rajasthan Police and another inspector working as MVO in Karnal; 33 officers/officials of the Revenue Department, 24 of Power Utilities, 14 of Urban Local Bodies, 5 of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumers Affairs, 5 of Transport, 4 of Education Department, 3 of Excise & Taxation, 3 of Cooperation, 3 of Haryana Khadi & Village Industries Board, 3 of Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board, 3 of Horticulture, 3 of Town & Country Planning, 2 of Health, 2 of HSVP, 2 of Mining & Geology, 2 of State Pollution Control Board, 2 of Social Justice & Empowerment, 2 of Irrigation 2 of Forest and 15 of other departments like Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Employment, Fisheries, Food & Drugs

Administration, Home Guards, Housing Board, HPHC, Industry & Commerce, Labour Construction Welfare, Jail, Panchayati Raj, Prosecution, Public Health Engineering, Treasury & Accounts and Waqf Board, were nabbed red-handed while taking bribes ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5 lakh in separate cases.

Apart from constantly putting a check on corruption, the VB is also collecting data based on a feedback system of whistle-blowers, aggrieved persons and sources in various departments, institutions and offices across the state. This helps the Bureau in laying traps and nabbing those who are demanding and accepting bribes.

Mr Kapur said fully functional vigilance offices had been made operational in each district. In a new initiative, the complainants have been honoured with 'Samman Patras' who played a proactive role in realizing the state government's drive to make Haryana corruption free.

The VB also facilitates the complainants with information on their pending issues. "We are preparing to launch a big crackdown on corrupt officials by attaching their ill-gotten property in 2023", Mr Kapur said.

Crusade against corruption

During its crusade against corruption in 2022, the Bureau registered 65 enquiries against 22 gazetted officers, 23 non-gazetted officials and 12 private persons on the direction of the state government. During the year, 90 enquiries were finalised.

Out of 90 enquiries completed in 2022, the Bureau recommended registration of criminal cases against 27 gazetted officers, 32 non-gazetted officials and 23 private persons, in 20 enquiries, and departmental action against 36 gazetted officers, 8 non-gazetted officials, in 14 enquiries. Criminal cases were registered and departmental action was taken against five gazetted officers, 14 non-gazetted officials and one private persons, in eight enquiries.

In addition to this, 19 technical reports were sent to the state government in which the Bureau recommended departmental action against 28 gazetted officers and 13 non-gazetted officers and recovery of Rs 73,05,647 from the agency concerned. The Bureau has recommended departmental action along with registration of criminal case against three gazetted officers and two non-gazetted officers.

The Bureau has also urged the people to fight against corruption and report complaints of bribery on its Toll-free numbers 1800-180-2022 and 1064 and WhatsApp number 094178-91064.

Haryana Police nab 11,797 criminals, POs & bail-jumpers



Photo by Vinay Malik

Cracking down on the criminals, the Haryana Police arrested 334 most-wanted criminals carrying cash awards in 2022. Besides, 11,463 proclaimed offenders (POs) and bail jumpers were also taken into police custody.

According to the Director General of Police, Haryana, Mr P.K. Agrawal, all these arrested criminals were not only accused in heinous crimes like murder, attempt to murder, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, loot, dacoity, but also carried an award ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The arrest of these offenders not only resulted in the resolution of hundreds of cases of heinous crimes and also helped in preventing several crimes.

A sustained drive against

law-breakers and bad elements throughout the year also led to the arrest of 6,552 POs and 4,911 bail jumpers. Out of these, 951 POs and 912 bail jumpers were apprehended by the State Crime Branch and the remaining 5,601 POs and 3,999 bail jumpers were arrested by field units. On an average, 546 POs and 410 bail jumpers were arrested every month.

"Our teams have identified these offenders by gathering data from courts and other inputs/sources to keep an effective tab on their movement and activities. Many of them had been evading arrest for a long time", Mr Agrawal said.

Maximum arrests were made in Faridabad district with 43 most wanted criminals taken into police custody, followed by 40 in Mahendergarh, 26 in Sonapat, 24 in

Rohtak, 21 each in Gurugram and Kurukshetra and 28 in Palwal district.

"Reward money of Rs 24.8 lakh has been distributed to the informers who provided credible information leading to the arrest of these big fishes of the crime world. Our Special Task Force (STF), formed to deal with organized crime, has done the commendable job of making these arrests", the DGP added.

Issuing a stern warning to the criminals, the DGP said there is no place for crime and criminal elements in Haryana. Teams have also identified a number of most wanted criminals who are spreading criminal activities in Haryana and the neighboring states. The force plans to launch a big crackdown to arrest them this year, he added.

On the uptick, economy

Growing at 9.8 pc, GSDP set to top pre-Covid level

By Parveen K Modi

The year 2022 that has lapsed into history saw the Manohar Lal Government take comprehensive measures to put the economy of Haryana on a good wicket. These made Haryana Top Achiever in the Ease of Doing Business ranking and Achiever in the Logistics Ease across Different State Leads Survey-2022. Haryana is the first among the landlocked peer states to prepare an export index and ranks third in the country in terms of promotion and development of the MSME sector.

The growth rate of Haryana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has consistently outperformed other states. The GSDP at constant (2011-12) prices, according to the Economic Survey, is estimated to be Rs 5,88,771.21 crore logging a growth of 9.8% in 2021-22 as compared to the negative growth of 5.3% in 2020-21. This implies that the level of real GSDP in 2021-22 will surpass the pre-Covid level of Rs 5,66,033.74 crore in 2019-20.

Advance estimates

At current prices, the GSDP, as per the advance estimates for 2021-22, has been estimated at Rs 8,95,671.25 crore, recording an excellent growth of 18.1% in 2021-22 as compared to the negative growth of 0.5% in 2020-21.

In real terms, between 2014 and 2021, the GSDP of Haryana has posted an annual compound growth rate of 6.47 per cent from Rs 3,70,535 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 5,88,771 crore in 2021-22. On the other hand, all-India real GDP recorded an annual compound growth rate of 4.63 per cent during the same period.

The share of the secondary sector in total Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices has increased to 33.2 per cent in 2021-22 as a result of consistent thrust lent to the manufacturing sector. The share of tertiary sector stood at 48.6 percent while the share of primary sector was 18.2 per cent of the GSVA in 2021-22.

The primary, secondary and tertiary sectors have recorded growth of 6.7 per cent, 25.3 per cent, and 16.5 per cent respectively at current prices in 2021-22 compared to the previous year. In the secondary sector, manufacturing and construction sectors have emerged as major contributors.

The share of manufacturing has increased from 61.61 per cent in 2011-12 to 69.33 per cent in 2021-22, demonstrating the rapid strides in the industrial sector made by Haryana.

PCI also up, 8.3 pc

The Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), also known as Per Capita Income, is the average income earned per person (PCI). At the time of formation of Haryana in 1966, the PCI at current



Photo by Vinay Malik

prices was only Rs 608. Since then, it has increased multifold. The per capita income of the state at constant (2011-12) prices is estimated to be Rs 1,79,367 in 2021-22 with a growth of 8.3% as compared to the negative growth of 6.7% recorded in 2020-21.

At current prices, the PCI is likely to be Rs 2,74,635 during 2021-22 showing a growth of 16.5% as compared to the negative growth of 2.0% recorded in 2020-21. The state is maintaining the PCI higher than the national PCI of Rs 1,50,326 and Rs 93,973 at current and constant prices, respectively during 2021-22 also.

GSVA set to grow 9.2 pc

When it comes to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) index, which is the value of goods and services produced in the economy, at constant prices, the growth in industry at 11.5 per cent, services at 10.1 percent and agriculture at 2.6 per cent is estimated to fuel the overall growth of 9.2 per cent in the current fiscal.

There was a 13 per cent growth rate in the GSVA in the industry in 2018-19 which fell to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20 and further to -1.7 per cent in 2020-21 under the Covid impact.

But it has rebound and is estimated to grow at 11.5 per cent in the current fiscal, on the back of manufacturing which is estimated to grow at 11.8 per cent; construction at 10.7 per cent; electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services at 10.9 per cent and mining and quarrying at 9.7 per cent.

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Before 2014, hardly anyone had spotted Haryana's export potential, but after the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, assumed office in 2014, several schemes have been implemented to promote industrial exports from the state.

Consequently, not only Haryana has got a new identity but the state has taken a quantum leap in its export graph. According to official figures, in 2013-14 Haryana exported goods worth Rs 68,032 crore.

The figure of exports has increased four-fold to touch Rs 2,17,222 crore. In 2021-22, Haryana exported goods worth \$ 28.9 billion. These mainly include rice, IT, handloom and handicrafts, auto-mobiles and metal ware, machinery and parts, drugs and pharmaceuticals products.

Because of the radical changes brought about by the Chief Minister to promote the Ease Of Doing Business (EODB), Haryana is now third in the country and first in North India in terms of EODB, whereas in 2014 it was at 14th position.

Economic development being the utmost priority of the Chief Minister, he has during the last eight years, laid emphasis on boosting industrial growth in

Exports up four

Haryana so as to provide livelihood to the people of the state along with making the state a preferred global investment destination.

Guided by the principle of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance, the Manohar Lal Government has created an ecosystem of EODB which not only matches global standards but

is more investment-friendly and has given a powerful administrative structure in the industrial sector of the state.

To propel the state to the next level of growth trajectory, the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy (HEEP), 2020, has been launched. Aligned with the 'Make in India' 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' campaigns of the



Excise firing on all cylinders

Excise - GST kitty swells 23 pc in 7 months

By Parveen K Modi

Good governance manifests itself in myriad ways. Not getting confined to the confines of making Haryana climb the ladder of socio economic indicators and pacing up delivery of citizen-centric services in a hassle and graft-free manner, it has made its mark on the economy too. While the Excise and GST collections have gone up by 23 per cent up to October-end over the corresponding period last year, exports have logged a four-fold jump in the last eight years.

That the economy of Haryana is on the recovery path is reflected in high revenue collection in the first seven months of the current fiscal 2022-23 vis-à-vis the corresponding period in 2021-22. With GST collection and IGST settlement in FY 2022-23 (up to October 2022), having increased by 23 per cent to Rs 16,316 crore against Rs 13,263 crore (up to October 2021) in 2021-22, Haryana is set to smash all previous records by the end of the current fiscal.

Similarly, State Excise increased by 22 per cent to Rs 5,736 crore in 2022-23 (up to October 2022) against Rs 4,702 crore in April to October 2021. However, discontin-

uation of GST compensations will severely impact our overall revenue collection in the current year when compared to last financial year. Further, the receipt under Stamp & Registration has shown an increase of 30 per cent to Rs 5,941 crore up to October 2022 against Rs 4,568 crore up to October 2021.

Historic steps

The Manohar Lal Government has taken several historic steps in its excise policy which have yielded outstanding results. Under this, it was decided to install POS machines at all liquor shops in the state by December 31, 2022. So far, Point of Sale (POS) systems have been installed at 55 percent of shops in the state. If these machines are not installed within the stipulated time, the shop owners will face a heavy penalty. Haryana is the first state in the country where directions have been given to install POS machines at liquor shops.

CCTV cameras have been installed in all the distillery's plants. All such units are being monitored through CCTV cameras by setting up a control room at the head quarters. During the 2019-20, Rs 6,361 crore excise revenue was netted, while in 2020-21 it went up to Rs. 6,790 crore and in the year 2021-22, Rs. 7,936



crore was recovered.

And this year the government expects to touch the benchmark of Rs 9,500 crore; Rs 5,736 crore having been collected up to October, 2022. It will be a great achievement for Haryana. "We are marching towards setting a new record whereas this year the government has set the target of recovering Rs. 8,900 crore", said Mr Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister.

Regarding GST collection, if a comparative study is done on the basis of consumption and production states, Haryana has become number one state in the country in terms of collecting GST revenue, said Mr Chautala. The state had smoothly shifted from module-one to module-two in the matter of GST

last year, for which the officers have done commendable work and it has also yielded positive results.

Last year till November 14, 2021, Rs. 14,302 crore GST had been collected, while this year Rs 18,290 crore has been collected, which shows an increase of about 22.71 percent.

The Government of India has also commended Haryana for outperforming in enhancing GST revenue. Not only this, TOIL had honoured Haryana by upgrading the state from silver category to gold category for taking corrective measures. The state government has created special units in GST which are keeping a strict vigil on tax leakage at field level as well as at the headquarters level.

Investment and growth

The Haryana Government has launched a progressive and path-breaking "Haryana Enterprises & Employment Policy-2020 (HEEP-2020)" propelling the state to the next level of growth trajectory. It envisages attracting investments to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh crore generating five lakh jobs in the state.

The policies are aligned with 'Make in India', 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' campaigns of the Central Government, and offer best-in-class incentives to attract investments. In the last one year, the government has approved new investment proposals worth more than Rs 21,800 crore which shows that Haryana has emerged among the most favoured investment destinations in the country. In addition, Haryana received Foreign Direct Investments of Rs 20,971 crore during 2021-22, registering a sharp increase of 67 per cent over the previous fiscal.

Apart from foreign investments, in the last three years, State has received investments of about Rs 32,000 crore from mega investors across sectors such as automobiles, agro & food processing, e-Com-merce, packaging etc. Marquee investors of global repute include Maruti Suzuki, JBM Electric Vehicles, Wanfeng, Aarti Greentech, Instakart Services Pvt. Ltd. (Flipkart) etc.

State-of-the-art industrial and Commercial Township is being developed on about 3,300 acres of land near Kharkhoda town in Sonapat district and IMT is being developed

on 1400 acres at Sohna in Gurugram. Walmart Vriddhi E-Institute has been started by Walmart in Panipat. Setting up of Medical Device Park in Panipat and Bulk Drugs Park in Hisar and Food and Drug Testing Lab in Panchkula are among some of the ambitious industrial development projects being undertaken by 'Manohar Sarkar'

The Manohar Lal Government is conscious of the fact that concerted measures need to be taken to ensure medium to long-term fiscal consolidation. Towards this end, it plans to launch a major drive to collate asset registers and develop a roadmap for phased monetisation of identified assets. Besides, efforts will be made to clean up the balance-sheets of public sector enterprises and transfer non-performing assets (NPAs) to an asset recovery company to recover their realisable value.

MSME sector

The MSME sector holds prominence in the overall developmental agenda of the state government to advance the socio-economic development of Haryana. Having special focus on MSMEs, the government launched the Micro Small Medium Enterprises Policy (MSME), 2019, which focuses on quality cluster development initiatives, domestic and international market development, online market linkages and enhancing export readiness of MSMEs in Haryana.

To provide further impetus to the MSME and encourage all-around balanced growth across the state, Haryana has launched "Programme to Accelerate Development for MSME Advancement (PADMA)" Scheme. Over a period of 5 years, an enabling MSME eco-system shall be developed in each block around an identified product segment.

Through the launch of this initiative, the state has taken the vision of "One District One Product" of the Prime Minister a step further, from district to block-level. The initiative aims at implementing Aatmanirbhar Bharat focused design and developmental interventions for enablement of micro and small enterprises at block level by leveraging a cluster approach, to give a thrust to sustainable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

As an outcome of the program, Haryana plans to set up 143 new MSME clusters (one in each block), enable the setting up of 10,000+ new enterprises and attract new investment to the tune of Rs 25,000-30,000 crore, generate 3 lakh new employment, both direct & indirect, to encourage holistic socio-economic development and a robust industrial ecosystem at block level.

Exports up 4 fold in 8 years

Government of India, it offers best-in-class incentives to attract investments in the state.

The policy fulfills Chief Minister's vision to establish Haryana as a competitive and favoured investment destination, achieve regional development, and export diversification and augment livelihood opportunities for its people through resilient economic

development. The policy objective is to attract investments of Rs. 1 lakh crore and generate 5 lakh jobs in the State. Many big investors are currently coming forward to invest.

Notably, the Manohar Lal-led government took another lead in introducing one of its kind initiatives when it launched the Programme to Accelerate Development for MSME Advancement (PADMA) progra-

mme to strengthen the economic condition of every region.

Under PADMA 'clusters' of small and medium industries are being established at the block level. Clusters have been formed in all 143 blocks of the state, even in the first phase the work of developing 40 clusters has started. Brands namely 'Har Amrit' for fertilizer, 'Har Agro' for cattle feed, 'Haryana Fresh' for mineral water, 'Ikshu' for sugar are being promoted to give special recognition to the products of the state.

Five special policies have been implemented for agri-culture and food processing, textiles, warehousing- logistics, retail, pharmaceutical and MSME sectors. For settlement of government dues and other disputes, help has been provided to industrialists through 'Vivaadon ka Samadhan'.

In order to reduce the 'cost of doing business' in industries, a special leasing policy was formulated for industrial plots so that the small industrialist does not have to spend much of his money on the purchase of plots. 'Udyog Mitra Yojana' was launched to create skilled man power as per the requirement of industries and Haryana Enterprises Promotion Centre was created to provide approvals to entrepreneurs under one roof.



CM's gifts to go under hammer for social welfare



By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

Where there is intent, there are multiple ways to serve the people and their cause! The payment received from the auctioning of gifts on CM-Uphaar portal will directly be transferred to the Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF), which will be used for the welfare of the people of the state!

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal has envisioned that the payment received from the auctioning of the gifts would be directly transferred to the CMRF and the same would be used for the welfare of the people of the state, said Dr Amit Agrawal, Additional Principal Secretary to Chief Minister and Director General, Information, Public Relations, and Languages Department.

Formally opening the registration process on the CM-Uphaar portal, launched for the auctioning of the gifts received by Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, here on

January 8, Dr Amit Agrawal did the first registration on the portal and participated in the bidding for the logo of the Chandigarh Press Club.

Interacting with media persons at Sant Kabir Kutir, Dr Amit Agrawal shared that for buying the gifts and mementos received by the Chief Minister from various social organizations and individuals, the person has to pay a bid amount of Rs 5,000 to participate in the auction of these gifts.

Inspired by PM

He said that Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has also auctioned the gifts he had received and the amount received from it was used for the Namami Gange project.

He said the base amount of each gift has been mentioned on the portal. Anyone can also donate money according to their financial abilities by bidding on the fixed bid amount mentioned on the gifts, he added. "The Chief Minister himself will present gifts to such donors and bidders. If the bidder desires,

he can also receive the gift via courier. People living abroad can also bid for these gifts and mementos," informed Dr Agrawal.

He said that the Chief Minister believes that everyone should come forward for the welfare of every needy and poor.

Dr Amit Agrawal also appealed to the people to actively participate in this noble cause and cooperate in social works by donating funds according to their financial capacity. Auction for the first phase of gifts is open till February 28.

The process of registration on the portal started on January 8 and will continue till February 28. After that, the portal will be reopened three or four times a year in a phased manner. In the first phase, 51 gifts will be auctioned.

Anyone can participate in the auction of these gifts by registering on cmuphaarhry.com. For further information, one can also contact at 7087513186, informed Dr Amit Agrawal.

40,000 Group C posts to be filled soon

Haryana Review Bureau

Haryana Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal said that while the Common Eligibility Test (CET) has been conducted for the recruitment of Group C posts, the recruitment of around 40,000 Group C posts will be advertised once the results are declared. Besides this, the CET exam will also be conducted soon for the recruitment of Group-D posts which would number 17,000 to 20,000.

Addressing media persons, the chief minister said that though the CET examination, which is conducted every year, is valid for three years, any candidate who wants to improve his/her score can re-appear in the exam. The chief minister also announced the decentralization of the powers of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and giving more autonomy to these small governments to speed up the development works being done in rural areas.

From now onwards, the

Sarpanches, and Chairman of Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads can accord administrative approval for the development works up to Rs. 2 lakh at their level only. No tenders will be floated for all such works.

The Chief Minister informed that Junior Engineers can give technical approval for works up to Rs 2 lakh. Similarly, SDO can give technical approval for works ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. Short-term tenders will be floated for these works through Haryana Engineering Works Portal.

Likewise, XEN will give technical approval for works ranging from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The technical approval for the works ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2.5 crore will be given by the Superintending Engineer and the approval of the works above Rs 2.5 crore will be given by the Chief Engineer.

CM takes charge of SEWA

The Haryana Governor, Dr Bandaru Dattatreya, has, on the advice of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, reallocated the portfolios among members of the Council of Ministers. This was necessitated by the merger of several departments and creation of new ones. The Chief Minister has taken charge of the portfolios of social justice, empowerment, welfare of scheduled castes and backward classes and Antyodaya (SEWA) as well as youth empowerment and entrepreneurship (YEE).

Here go the names of members of the Council of Ministers along with their portfolios.

Sr. No	Name	Departments
1	Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister	Finance, Institutional Finance and Credit Control, Town & Country Planning and Urban Estates, Irrigation and Water Resources, Planning, Administration of Justice, Architecture, General Administration, Criminal Investigation, Personnel & Training, Raj Bhawan Affairs, Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA), Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship, Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture, Sports, Any department not specifically allotted to any Minister
2	Sh. Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister	Revenue and Disaster Management, Excise & Taxation, Industries & Commerce, Public Works (B&R), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Civil Aviation, Rehabilitation
3	Sh. Anil Vij	Home, Health, Medical Education & Research, AYUSH
4	Sh. Kanwar Pal	School Education, Parliamentary Affairs, Hospitality, Environment, Forests & Wildlife, Heritage & Tourism
5	Sh. Mool Chand Sharma	Transport, Mines & Geology, Elections, Higher Education
6	Sh. Ranjit Singh	Energy, Jails
7	Sh. Jai Jarkash Dalal	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Fisheries, Law and Legislative
8	Dr. Banwari Lal	Co-operation, Public Health Engineering
9	Dr. Kamal Gupta	Urban Local Bodies, Housing for All
10	Sh. Devender Singh Babli	Development & Panchayats
11	Sh. Om Prakash Yadav (Minister of State)	Sainik & Ardh Sainik Welfare (Independent Charge), Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA) (Attached with Chief Minister)
12	Smt. Kamlesh Dhanda (Minister of State)	Women and Child Development (Independent charge), Archives (Independent Charge)
13	Sh. Anoop Dhanak (Minister of state)	Labour (Independent Charge), Revenue & Disaster Management (attached with Deputy Chief Minister), Industries & Commerce (attached with Deputy Chief Minister), Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (attached with Deputy Chief Minister)
14	Sh. Sandeep Singh (Minister of State)	Printing & Stationery (Independent charge)

Projects worth Rs 1,882 cr unveiled

By **Ajay Bhardwaj**

Following the mantra of 'Haryana Ek, Haryanvi Ek,' Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal dedicated as many as 167 public welfare projects costing more than Rs. 1882 crore related to Education, Health, Water, Power, strengthening Road Connectivity etc to people of the State.

At a state-level programme held in village Dhanwapur, Gurugram the chief minister virtually inaugurated 113 projects worth more than Rs. 791 crore and laid the foundation stone of 54 projects costing around Rs. 1090 crore.

The list of four key projects inaugurated by the Chief Minister includes the augmentation drinking water supply scheme in quality-affected 84 villages of Prithla and Palwal Block, district Palwal and Ballabgarh Block of district

Faridabad by the construction of Ranney Well and Deep Tubewell in village Mohna and augmentation Canal Based W/s Scheme for 25 villages of Satnali Block, Mahendragarh. Besides this, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the flyover constructed at Sheela Chowk on the intersection of Delhi Hisar road with RKDB road and the construction of the bridge on JLN Feeder and BSB Canal on RKDB road, district Rohtak and RoB on Bhiwani-Hansi road to Tosham Bypass Road, district Bhiwani.

Foundation stone laid

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of eight key projects including the construction of the State's first Haryana International Habitat Centre (Art, Culture & Innovative Centre), Sector 1, Panchkula (Chandi-mandir), construction of laning of RaiMalikpur (Rajasthan Border) Nangal Chaudhary-Narnaul Mahendragarh Dadri Road, construction of

the new building of Government College, Israna, Panipat and construction of HL Bridge, SYL and Narwana Br. Canals on Karnal Kachhwa Sambli Kaul road, district Karnal. Besides this, the foundation stones of rejuvenation of Badkhal Lake, the project covering Jhajjar link drain with RCC Box with retaining wall, treatment of wastewater by constructing 15 MLD decentralized Waste Water Treatment Plant on EPC model at Sector-25, Ballabgarh, Faridabad and augmentation of water supply scheme and providing sewerage system, village Madlauda, district Panipat was also laid.

In this development bonanza, Mahendragarh got 3 projects costing around Rs. 421.42 crore, while Palwal got 9 projects worth Rs. 187 crore, Gurugram got 11 projects worth Rs. 168.36 and Faridabad 8 got projects worth Rs. 143 crore.

CHIRAYU brings cheers to Antyodaya families

Constantly working to promote Shiksha, Swasthya, Suraksha, Swabhiman and Swavlamban : CM

By Ajay Bhardwaj

Bimla, a resident of Faridabad district, was all ga-ga as she narrated her experience of availing free of cost health benefits accruing from the golden card issued to her under the Chirayu Haryana scheme.

The scheme (Comprehensive Health insurance of Antyodaya Units) envisages provision of availing free of cost medical treatment of upto Rs one lakh.

It is aimed at taking the Ayushman Bharata benefits to the Antyodaya families with an annual income of upto Rs 1.80 lakhs.

Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal for launching the scheme, Bimla, said that she was suffering from a health ailment and while she was admitted to the hospital for her treatment, the medical expenses costing Rs. 1 lakh was borne by the State Government.

Echoing the same sentiments, Anil, a resident of Ambala Cantt, said that being a beneficiary of CHIRAYU, his treatment cost of up to Rs 45,000, was paid by the State Government, thus saving him from facing any kind of financial burden.



Another beneficiary from Jhajjar, Bittu, was also all praise for the chief minister saying that he had undergone heart surgery but

despite the hefty hospital bill, he availed free treatment.

Likewise, many other beneficiaries have expressed their

gratitude to the chief minister and his government for meticulously implementing this scheme for the welfare of the poor.

It was to realise the vision of 'Swasth Haryana' that the CHIRAYU scheme was launched to extend the Ayushman Bharat benefits to beneficiaries having an annual income limit of Rs.1.80 lakh.

The scheme saves all the poor and needy from facing any financial burden occurring due to expensive treatment costs.

The State Government has been in fact constantly working to promote Shiksha, Swasthya, Suraksha, Swabhiman and Swavlamban.

Ever since November 21, 2022, when the scheme was launched by the chief minister, till now 10378 beneficiaries have availed of free treatment benefits and for this, the government has borne the expenditure of Rs 19.13 crore.

"We have resolved to celebrate the year 2023 as Antyodaya Arogya Varsh. 'Health for all' is our resolution. We are ensuring that no one, because of financial constraints, should face any difficulty in getting timely treatment," said the chief minister.

44 lakh new golden cards generated

Before the CHIRAYU scheme was launched, golden cards of more than 28 lakh beneficiaries were covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana but now more than 44 lakh new cards have been generated under the CHIRAYU. Thus the total number of such cards comes to 73 lakh.

There are a total of 715 hospitals empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state, including 539 private hospitals and 176 government hospitals.

The Chirayu scheme aimed at expanding the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme launched by the central government so that maximum number of beneficiaries could be included in the scheme. "The expansion of the scheme will help in bringing 29 lakh beneficiaries under insurance cover of ₹5 lakh yearly. Around 1,500 diseases are covered under this insurance and this scheme will ensure that people from weaker sections of society get to avail of treatment without facing financial hardships.

Vends checked to ensure no illegal sale of liquor: Vij

By Rajeev Ranjan Roy

Haryana Home Minister Mr Anil Vij has said that the Excise and Taxation Department is conducting regular checking of liquor vends to ensure that there is no illegal sale of liquor. The District Staff has also been directed to ensure that CCTV cameras are installed in all wholesale licensed premises in the district and the live feed is available to the DETC, Excise, to further curb any illegal sale of liquor.

The provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914 have been amended to counter the illegal and spurious liquor. The provisions of section 61 have been made more stringent, he said while responding to a Calling Attention motion moved during the first day of the Winter Session in the Vidhan Sabha.

Mr Vij also informed the House that Vide Order No. 6/2/2020-2HC dated May 11, 2020, the Home Department, Haryana constituted a Special Enquiry Team (SET) under the Chairmanship of Mr TC Gupta, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Power, Empowerment, Renewable Energy and Housing, to enquire into the



matter of theft of liquor from the recovered stock stored in the temporary warehouse at Kharkhoda -Matindoo Road, Sonipat, Haryana.

He said that on July 30, 2020, SET submitted its report to the government with the recommendations for taking appropriate action against the individuals officers/officials for the lapses mentioned in the report and also suggested/recommended measures for systematic improvements in functioning of the Excise Department.

Enquiry report

The Home Minister further informed that through letter No. 20/64/2020-3S (I) dated August 25, 2020, the Chief Secretary to Government Haryana (Department of Personnel) sent a copy of Report of Special Enquiry Team to the

Additional Chief Secretary to Government Haryana, Home Department and Principal Secretary to Government Haryana, Excise and Taxation Department with the request to take necessary action for implementing the recommendations of SET and it was also decided by the Government that the whole matter be got probed by the State Vigilance Bureau.

Accordingly, the Chief Secretary to Government Haryana (Department of Personnel) directed the Vigilance Department to get the above-mentioned issue probed by the State Vigilance Bureau.

Further, a one-member committee comprising Sh. Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary has been constituted to study the reports and recommendations of the following Teams/Committees and identify correctional measures required to be taken by various departments and also for initiating suitable action against the defaulters.

The investigation will be done by SET headed by Mr TC Gupta, IAS, Report of Committee headed by Ms Kala Ramachandran, IPS, SIT headed by Mr Shrikan Jadhav, IPS and inquiry being conducted by the State Vigilance Bureau.

Deptts merged for cohesion, efficiency

Haryana Review Bureau

With a view to bringing about greater cohesion and improving administrative efficiency, the Haryana Government has merged and reorganized some departments and issued a notification to this effect. Disclosing this, an official spokesperson said that with the merger of the Department of New and Renewable Energy with the Department of Power, the name of the new department has been changed to 'Energy Department'.

The Forest and Wildlife Department and Environment and Climate Change Department have been merged and changed to 'Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department'. The Department of Archeology and Museums has been merged with the Department of Tourism and the name of the department has been changed to 'Heritage and Tourism Department'.

The Departments of Higher Education, Technical Education and the Department of Science and Technology have been merged and the new department has been named 'Higher Education Department'.

The spokesperson said the state government had dissolved the Department of Information

Technology, Electronics and Communication; and the functions of this department, electronics manufacturing and private IT and Hartron have been brought under the purview of 'Industries and Commerce Department'.

Similarly, the Department of Art and Cultural Affairs has been merged with the Department of Information, Public Relations and Languages and its name has been changed to 'Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department'.

The name of the Labour and Employment Department has now been changed to the 'Labour Department'. Meanwhile, after the merger of the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Department and Social Justice and Empowerment Department; it has been renamed as 'Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA) Department'. The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs has now been named 'Department of Sports'.

The Haryana Government has constituted a new department named 'Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Department'. In this, the departments of Skill Development and Industrial Training along with Employment and Youth Affairs have been merged, the spokesman added.



The fog befofs one and all

Photo by Vinay Malik

EDUCATION

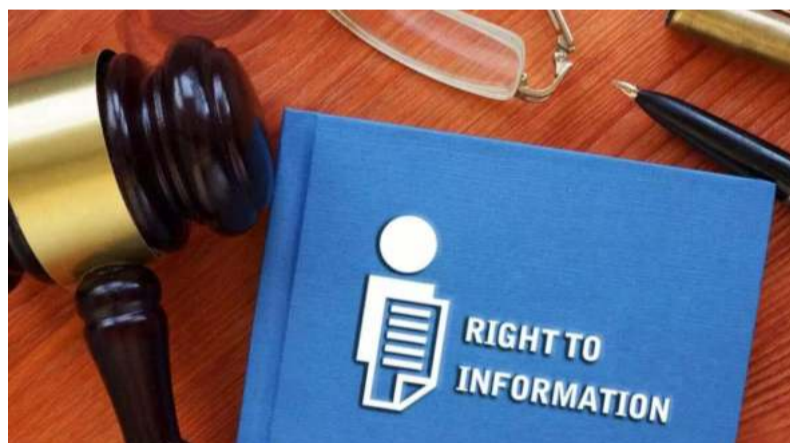
How to minimize misuse of RTI Act

By **Shagun Kapoor**

The Haryana State Higher Education Council (HSHEC) has organized a one-day workshop on 'Minimizing Misuse of RTI' in Panchkula. With this, the RTI Act will be proved as a major step taken against corruption, which serves to bring more transparency in the working of the government or administration; but RTI should not be misused for the wrong means. Also, the citizens can get the relevant information from any department of the government.

On the occasion, the Chairman of HSHEC, Prof Brij Kishore Kuthiala suggested that a committee in the council can be formed which will consist of Public Information Officers (PIOs), first Appellate Authorities, Advocates, RTI experts, etc to take up RTI-related problems of the state universities and provide guidance.

Further, the Vice-Chairperson of HSHEC, Dr. Kailash Chander Sharma, told Haryana Review that the RTI Act empowers citizens to get the answers to their questions and build better-informed citizens. Also, the channel of RTI should not be used with the intent of blackmailing and misusing and emphasized that the process and



procedure of the RTI Act should be thoroughly understood by PIOs and first appellate authorities, he added.

During the event, an expert Speaker, Mr. Ajay Jagga further explained the RTI Act in detail to the participants in the workshop, stating its meaning, main objectives, important provisions and certain significant judgments of the Supreme Court. He further pointed out that only genuine RTI applications should be processed further. Also, the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for certain common issues may be formed by the State Government, said the speaker.

The former Chief Secretary and former State Information Commissioner of Haryana, Mrs.

Urvashi Gulati further discussed the significance of the RTI Act, and said that the RTI Act should be regarded as a public good, is a crucial pillar for the functioning of a transparent and vibrant democracy and relevant to the interest of the citizens. Also, "one should not underestimate the value of this right", she added.

The Haryana State Higher Education Council (HSHEC) has recommended considering 'Bachelor of Vocational Degree' (B. Voc), equivalent to any other three-year Bachelor Degree. With this, the students would be able to get jobs, wherein, a Bachelor Degree in any discipline is the eligibility condition for employment.

SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra sets his eyes on 90-m mark

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

Tokyo Olympics Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra has set a goal for himself in 2023 to breach the 90 m mark. He is currently undergoing training in England and is preparing for upcoming events including the World Championships and the Diamond League.

2008.

An overweight 12-year-old boy from Haryana's Khandra village, he was persistently persuaded by his family members to take up sports. He ultimately gave in to all the badgering and began training at Shivaji Stadium in Panipat. That was until he saw a few seniors throwing javelins at the stadium and decided to try his luck at javelin throw.



Javelin thrower Neeraj had become the first Indian to win Olympic Gold in Athletics, seventh medal for India in Tokyo Olympics, the country's highest ever. He gave his best throw of 87.58 to bag the Gold Medal. Shooter Abhinav Bindra had bagged gold in Beijing

Fortunately for him, that sport truly captured his fancy as he began training rigorously to get into better shape! He grew up to become India's first ever javelin thrower to win a Gold Medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Asian Games.