



Jagannath Pahadia:
Our new Governor
Page 4

HARYANA

REVIEW

August 2009, Vol 23 Issue 7, Rs 15

Haryana in the big league
Creating skilled manpower for 21st century
Solar eclipse of the century
INA: A striking force



Houses for millions

Cities are changing the face of Haryana





The people in Haryana can certainly look forward to better education and better future.

- Mrs Sonia Gandhi,
UPA Chairperson

TECH. HARYANA

Big Boost to Technical Education

Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda took in hand the ambitious plan of expanding job-oriented technical education in the state.

During the last four years, there has been an exponential growth of technical institutes in the state. In the year 2004-05, there were only 145 technical institutes offering diploma and degree courses with an intake of a mere 24,124 students. But currently, there are 489 technical institutes and the annual intake has crossed the one lakh mark, an increase of nearly 400 per cent.



HARYANA

REVIEW**PATRON-IN-CHIEF**

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VOL. 23 ISSUE 7, AUGUST 2009

Edited and Published for Haryana Government by K.K. Khandelwal, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary and Director, Information & Public Relations Department and issued from SAMVAD, SCO No 137, Sector 17, Panchkula (Haryana). (Mailing address: SCO 23 (FF), Sector 7, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh. Phone 0172-5055971, 5055977).

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Printed at: Bhaskar Printing Press, Chandigarh.

EDITORIAL**Towards a Millennium Haryana**

Not far from now, say by 2050, Haryana would be a conglomerate of big and small towns and cities, including its cosmopolitan cities in the National Capital Region. Villages would be a thing of the past except some of them interspersed amid the cities.

This offers both a challenge and an opportunity for policymakers and town-planners. They will have to work innovatively and energetically to provide the basic amenities in those well-planned cities, with a futuristic look. This would be necessary to let the cities grow organically for generations to come. Politically, socially and culturally, Haryana is growing fast, the minor hiccups notwithstanding. The political leadership, the town planners and the engineers will have to look towards future while digging their heels firmly into the ground. Neither cities grow in the air nor do people make homes in the air.

Economics of raising cities is an important factor. Yet cities have to have institutions and provide basic amenities like water, electricity, sewerage system, roads, educational institutions, parks, playgrounds and hospitals besides recreational facilities. These are as important as houses. Given the needs of a rising population, Haryana will have to go vertical.

Fortunately, the state which embarked upon planned cities and towns well in time has the requisite mind and resources to go ahead. This becomes clear from the progress made during the last five years and offers a clear direction on how the state would be developing and taking a fresher and newer shape for happy homes and satisfied citizens. Haryana can take pride that it has public men -- the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and his colleagues -- who have a solid vision as how the state should grow. We narrate this significant story in our current issue.

Also, Haryana has moved fast in the area of technical education. Capacity expansion has taken a leap and the budget that was a paltry sum five years ago is now around Rs 400 crore in the public sector alone. As against 35,000 students five years ago, Haryana this year has over one lakh students. We provide readers all the details.

We wish the people of Haryana a happy Independence Day.



Main apna hukka keet dharunga?

Yeh HUDA walo ne ghane sundar ghar banaye hai

FOCUS

New Governor assumes office 4

COVER STORY

Urbanisation: Haryana in the big league 6

Interview with CM: Making Haryana a model state is our vision 8

Redefining urban development 10

Hip hip HUDA! 16

A tale of three cities 18

Realising dreams 20

Loharu mandi: A marvel in architecture 21

36,000 houses in two years 22

Living in modern milieu 24

Putting plans in place 26

Aiding urban trends 28



CONTENTS

CONTENTS



TECHENERGISING HARYANA
Honing skills for 21st century 30

PHOTO FEATURE
Solar eclipse: Holy dip in Kurukshetra 36

FEATURE
Herbal parks: New tourist centres 40

ART AND CULTURE
Organic forms in contemporary sculpture 42

SPECIAL REPORT
Recognising merit 44

MONTH IN REVIEW
Snapshots on Haryana 46

HISTORY
INA: A striking force 48

SPORTS
Where kabaddi is a culture 50
Towards recreation and excellence 52

GUEST COLUMN
Reflections on Independence Day 54

REPORT
A woman with courage makes a majority 55

BOOK REVIEW
Haryana: An exciting mix of past and present 56



Readers may send their comments to haryanareview@gmail.com or to SCO 23, First Floor, Sector 7-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160 019



Mr Jagannath Pahadia shakes hands with the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice T S Thakur, after taking the oath of office.

NEW GOVERNOR assumes office

Mr Jagannath Pahadia is sworn in as the
15th Governor of Haryana

For once Haryana Raj Bhawan had a tinge of Rajasthani hues when senior Congress leader from Rajasthan, Jagannath Pahadia, took oath as the 15th Governor of Haryana. And hundreds of his followers from that state made the occasion memorable.

The 77-year-old Gandhian was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice T S Thakur. Among the dignitaries present were Punjab Governor Gen S F Rodrigues (retd), Chief Minister Bhupinder

Singh Hooda and his cabinet colleagues.

The relatives of the Governor -- his sons, daughters and grandchildren were also present.

Earlier, on reaching Chandigarh, Pahadia, along with his former parliamentarian wife Shanti Pahadia, was extended a warm welcome by the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues besides the Raj Bhawan officials.

Pahadia was born at Bhusawar village in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan in 1932. An MA, LLB, he was the chief minister of Rajasthan from 1980 to 1981 and the governor of Bihar from March 1989 to November 1989. He is known for his frank and straightforward approach to political, administrative and constitutional matters.

He was the member of the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in March 1965 and re-elected in March 1966. He was also a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1971, Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 and the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984.

Pahadia held the portfolio of the Deputy Minister in various ministries at the Centre, such as Finance, Food and Agriculture, Supply, Communications and Labour from 1967 to 1977. He was also the Union Minister of State for Finance in 1980.

He has been the member, All India Congress Committee, besides being a member and chairman of various parliamentary committees.

He is a dedicated social worker who took part in various students' movements; organised night schools

for children and adults; worked among the Harijans, tribals and other socially-backward people for their uplift, and helped community development blocks in their developmental activities, particularly in agriculture, cottage industries, Panchayati Raj, cooperatives and family planning. He also worked for prohibition and in the movements against the purdah system and prostitution.

He has also been the editor of Adhikar, a weekly magazine published from Bharatpur. Reading, walking, sports, light music and holding discussions on current topics are his favourite pastimes.

Pahadia is a widely-travelled man who has visited many foreign countries, including the US, Russia, the UK, France and Germany. ■



Governor Mr Jagannath Pahadia takes the salute; also in the picture are Haryana Chief Minister Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice T S Thakur.

URBANISATION: HARYANA IN THE BIG LEAGUE

Gobind Thukral

A small step that visualised creating planned, homogenous and liveable habitats to meet the requirements of the highly-industrialised state is the voyage of Haryana's urban development. Its leaders saw it fairly early and laid the foundations that without destroying the old cities and their culture created urban estates that could boast of modern amenities: open vistas, broad roads and streets, electricity, piped water supply, underground sewerage and neatly-laid houses. And all along, educational institutions, markets, industrial hubs, community centres, theatres and gardens were built. All that is required for a 21st century living.

The Haryana Urban Development Authority created way back in 1977 has so far raised 28 urban estates and

31 mandi townships. HUDA has acquired over 55,000 acres of land for 2.4 lakh freehold residential plots. What we see today are the well-planned millennium cities like Gurgaon, Panchkula and Faridabad. They have been raised from the scratch and are the envy of other states.

Urban development in Haryana is taking care of the old cities while developing new ones all across the state. There is a masterplan for each of the 106 cities and towns keeping in mind the needs and comforts of the future generations.

Haryana, spread over an area of 44,212 sq km, is one of the most rapidly developing states in India as its growth rate (8 per cent) exceeds the national average growth rate. It commands the second highest per capita income of Rs 58, 531. About 91 per cent of its population is above

poverty line. All this leads to urbanisation.

There is a locational advantage for Haryana that was once the backwaters of Punjab. One third of it is covered under the National Capital Region, the richest in the country. The state is well served by 14 tracks of railway lines, 15 national highways in addition to the under-construction KMP Express Highway passing through the state.

All small and medium towns of the state are covered under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975. Most of these towns are also covered by the controlled areas declared under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963. By virtue of the aforesaid Acts, no person can carve out a colony and raise any construction at site within the jurisdiction of the said controlled



An aerial view of Gurgaon

areas and urban areas without obtaining a licence/permission from the Director, Town and Country Planning. The land in small and medium towns is comparatively cheaper. The psychology of the urban residents is changing frequently as in the present era of science and technology everyone wants to live in a better environment.

The old existing small and medium towns which have developed on the basis of traditional technology lack the facility of proper road network, sewerage, piped water supply and other supporting socio-economic infrastructure. Therefore, the residents of old localities prefer to shift to environmentally better-planned colonies. Due to the strict enforcement of the Town and Country Planning Department, now the colonisers cannot develop such towns in an unauthorised way on the traditional pattern. Obtaining licences under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, is the only option available to the colonisers/developers.

For successfully implementing their projects, the colonisers/developers should have a complete knowledge of the subject, all Acts, and the rules and regulations of the state. For attaining competency in such works, a study of the District Controlled Area Plans, development plans of each town and the Haryana Town Planning Guide which covers all aspects of colony development is recommended. These plans and books are available at the sites.

HUDA was created as a strong arm for planned urban development. It has its own success story to narrate. It has picked up pace since the present government came to power. Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda not only chairs the Urban Development Department and its various arms but convenes weekly meetings to monitor the work. It is developing new sectors in almost all the towns. Till date, HUDA has developed 205 residential, 43 industrial and 23 commercial sectors. Of the 205 residential sectors, 36 have come up in Gurgaon, 33 in Faridabad, 29 in Panchkula, 15 in Karnal, 10 each in Hisar, Panipat and Ambala, six each in Rohtak and Sonapat and the rest in other towns. Unlike private real estate developers that have made the big mullah, HUDA

is spending huge sums on social areas -- schools, community centres, theatres, sports complexes and houses for the poor.

Three sports complexes are functional at Gurgaon, Panchkula and Sirsa and two most modern sports complexes will be soon completed at Rohtak and Ambala.

HUDA has already set up a number of hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, schools, community centres, clubs, fire stations, police stations and parks in the urban estates. It is also undertaking the development of commercial sites, malls and city centres. It has built 14 gymkhana clubs, two auditoriums -- one at Gurgaon and another at Panchkula -- 86 primary schools, 17 high schools, a college, 94 police posts, 17 police stations, 33 dispensaries, 114 community halls and two old-age homes. A gigantic task indeed.

Since land is becoming scarce, the housing has to be more vertical. Old bungalows would soon be a thing of the past. So in cities like Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula, HUDA has embarked upon multi-storey complexes with group housing as the basic concept. In Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula, these group houses are already an accepted form and more and more are being encouraged. The idea is to accommodate more population in small spaces.

Haryana currently has over 28 per cent of its population in towns and cities. People from the rural areas are constantly moving to old or new towns and cities. They prefer HUDA's urban estates. Estimates show that by the year 2050, the state, with a population of more than double the present size of 2.64 crore, would be one large conglomeration of urban estates, towns and cities interspersed with villages, that too more urban than the present towns. Necessities and comforts required for urban living -- houses, roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage and public institutions of various types -- would require enormous efforts both by the government and the public.

And to provide amenities and institutions at such scale and retain a sense of equilibrium between a fast pace urbanisation and available land for farming is a tough job. But then Haryana has the wherewithal to meet that. ■

Independent city systems

Jeb Brugmann in his classic book, 'Revolution, How Cities Are Changing The World', describes urban revolution as an irrepressible force, akin to what the industrial revolution once was. It has the ability to radically transform the traditional values of older, agrarian societies. We see this happening in Chandigarh, a model for urban planning in India.

This urban revolution is already upon us. According to UN statistics, over half the world population -- more than three billion people -- now live in urban areas. For the first time, the planet will be more urban than rural. In India, the urbanisation level is still only 30 per cent, but will soon increase because of the fast-paced economic development. This will impose definitive changes in the way we live. Master plans must start considering migration into cities not as a problem but a foreseeable developmental process.

To create successful cities, it will be necessary to deal with them not as independent entities, but as 'city systems', which refers to the sum total of their effect on the region. There has to be synergy between the needs of the inhabitants and the intent of planners.

Urbanism can overcome the limitations of even the most restrictive urban policies in a manner analogous to the political power attributed to crowds. Look at the power of new migrants and consider the fact that even in strongly-planned Delhi and Chandigarh, all 'illegal' development had to be condoned to enable its inhabitants to gain access to civic services. Planning cities is easier, keeping them according to plan much harder.

This is the power of the urban revolution.



“

HUDA has spent Rs 2,522 crore on development since I took over in March 2005. Its progress can be measured from the fact that it had spent only Rs 2,481 crore on development during the 28 years of its existence. HUDA has spent a record Rs 879 crore last year and its budget for the current financial year is pegged at Rs 925 crore.

”

MAKING HARYANA

A MODEL STATE IS OUR VISION: HOODA

The projected population of Haryana is expected to be 2.64 crore by 2010, of which 88.51 lakh will live in towns and cities. There has been a steady increase in the urban population on account of the rapid industrialisation, natural

growth and migration from rural areas. This has prompted us in working out alternate ways of meeting the increasing demand of the basic necessities like transport, power, housing, health, sanitation, energy and pollution.

Haryana Review met Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda to know his views on urban development in the state.

Excerpts of an interview with Rajiv Kapur.

What has been the progress in urban development in the last four and a half years of your tenure?

Haryana has made a stupendous progress in the development of urban sector during this period. Every third person in the state dwells in cities and towns, so the government is providing a necessary impetus to strengthen the infrastructure to meet their basic needs.

City development plans have been formulated to cover the gaps in infrastructure, such as roads, drains, water supply and sewerage. These would be plugged by way of comprehensive and effective dovetailing with the ongoing schemes like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, Urban Solid Waste Management Programme and the grants received on the recommendation of the Central Finance Commission.

Why is the investment in infrastructure essential for a speedy economic growth?

The importance of infrastructure development for a sustained economic growth is of paramount importance. High transaction costs arising out of the inadequate infrastructure can prevent the economy in realising its full potential regardless of the progress on other fronts.

The physical infrastructure like transportation, power and communication facilitates the speedy growth of the economy at all levels. The social infrastructure, including water supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, education and health, has a direct impact on the quality of life of the people. The visible signs of congested roads, power failures, water-logging, shortage of drinking water, long queues of patients in hospitals and poor sanitation illustrate the widening gap between the demand and supply of infrastructure and also raise questions concerning the sustainability of economic growth in future.

As the government does not have adequate resources and manpower to provide all these facilities, there is a need for public private partnership to contribute in the allround growth and

bridge the infrastructure gap. There has been a considerable progress in attracting private investment in the infrastructure sectors: first in telecommunications, then in roads, and also in individual projects.

What steps have you taken to improve the financial position of the urban local bodies so that they can independently take up development works?

According to the recommendations of the Third State Finance Commission, the government has increased the volume of grant-in-aid to the urban local bodies by over 66 per cent. The Centre has approved six schemes for a comprehensive improvement in urban settlements with an outlay of Rs 768 crore; the first instalment of Rs 62.73 crore has already been released. Four projects on integrated solid waste management and a sewage treatment plant at Bahadurgarh have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs 100 crore. Another Rs 240 crore has been sanctioned for 12 towns of the state for their allround development.

The government has decided to extend development grants of Rs 1 crore to each of the 144 municipal wards across the state having more than 50 per cent population belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

As a majority of the population is shifting to cities for better opportunities of higher education, employment and modern facilities, what is your vision for the state by 2025?

With the modern facilities available in cities, many rural people are shuttling between the rural and urban areas to get quality education, especially vocational or technical, to become self-dependent after coming out of educational institutes. The industrial towns like Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat and Panipat are buzzing with activity with the coming up of new industrial ventures. People are attracted to these places because of the abundant employment opportunities and modern civic amenities available there.

By 2025, the face of the state would be quite different from what it is today. We are making an endeavour to provide modern facilities of international standard both in rural

and urban areas of the state, thus curbing the migration of the population to urban areas. Our vision is to make Haryana a model state excelling in every field. This would be possible only with the whole-hearted support of the people and the dedication and sincerity of the officials.

What new works have been undertaken by the Town and Country Planning Department for the development of satellite towns of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Sonipat?

The Town and Country Planning Department has made development plans for Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Sonipat. These include a provision for various kinds of infrastructure, keeping in view the present and future needs of these areas. The physical infrastructure in these towns is to be developed by the state development agencies, like HUDA, Industrial Development Corporation, Public Works Department and the municipal bodies in keeping with the requirements of these towns.

We have done a lot in the development of our industrial estates and industrial model townships. Still a lot more needs to be done to develop world-standard infrastructure all over the state. We are conscious of the fact that infrastructure constitutes the life blood of industry. Hence, the spendings on this sector have been increased considerably and the private sector is also being involved in this.

What is the allocation made for the development of rural areas and the current status of the progress of work in the model villages?

The government has recently decided to spend Rs 2,000 crore for the development of rural areas; earlier, it had spent Rs 2,500 crore on this. As many as 100 model villages have been developed in the state for which Rs 425.11 crore has been sanctioned. Instructions have also been issued for completing the development works in the model villages by 2010. The present government has created a network of better roads and bridges, hospitals, educational institutes, bus stands and government offices, making the life of the common man better and more comfortable. ■

REDEFINING URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Aparna Pawar

Haryana has made rapid strides in development. Be it urbanisation or industrialisation, the untiring efforts of the Hooda government have catapulted Haryana into one of the leading states in the country.

The government is determined to put the state on the world map through the dedicated efforts of the Haryana Urban Development Authority. It is striving hard to have a planned urban development in each and every district and town to make them virtual comfort zones for its people.

In the four and a half years of the present government, the state has made a remarkable growth in providing excellent facilities and infrastructure to its people. Many projects are coming up in Haryana, like the 135-km-long Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway, Delhi-Gurgaon

Metro rail link and Rajeev Gandhi Education City.

Besides, the government has taken up various works to facilitate the common man. Herbal gardens, sports complexes, road over-bridges, water supply works, golf courses and ultra-modern auditoriums have come up at various places.

The government has extended many benefits to people by introducing various schemes and projects. HUDA has implemented the Ashiana scheme under which it is constructing four-storey flats for the weaker sections. It has also increased the quota for the economically-weaker sections from 20 to 35 per cent.

HUDA provides two per cent reservation to the handicapped in the allotment of industrial plots measuring up to 500 square metres and 10 per cent rebate in residential and industrial plots. It provides 90 per cent rebate in the extension fees in

case of registration of property in the name of women and 100 per cent rebate in case of widows. It also has a reservation of 5 per cent for lawyers in the allotment of plots.

For those farmers whose land has been acquired, the government has decided to provide a compensation of Rs 15,000 per acre annually for 33 years in the form of royalty besides giving them a fixed compensation. It will be increased by Rs 500 per year. Till date it has distributed Rs 11.6 crore as annuity to farmers.

Chaudhary Jasmeer Singh, a farmer from Sampla, whose land has been acquired, says, "Had the government given the compensation money in one go, the farmers would have frittered it, but now it is like a fixed income for them."

To take care of the health needs of ex-servicemen, HUDA is developing sectors for defence and paramilitary forces in its urban estates. Under the



A modern stadium in Panchkula

present government, three residential sectors exclusively for ex-servicemen and defence personnel have been developed and more are in the pipeline. It has also allotted land for the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme at concessional rates.

Besides, HUDA has taken many people-centric decisions for fulfilling the aspiration of the common man – that is of having a house. It has set up 28 urban estates to meet the requirements of the inhabitants. About 55,000 acres of land has been acquired and about 2.55 lakh freehold residential plots allotted in residential estates. For intensive use of the scarce urban land, the concept of group housing is being promoted. Also, the annual rate of interest on the late payment of instalments by the allottees has been reduced from 14 to 12 per cent.

No wonder HUDA bagged the National e-Governance Award in the

category of Exemplary Usage of Information and Communication Technology in Public Sector Undertakings for 2008-2009 at a function organised by the Ministry of Information Technology and Administrative Reforms in Goa. The computerisation of plots and property management and the financial accounting system for all HUDA urban estates will result in the allottees having a direct access to their property accounts and their status. The work has been completed in the urban estates of Panchkula and Ambala where all the allottees have been given user IDs and passwords to enable them to see the details of their properties any time.

As many as 34 special gardens spread over an area of 665 acres have been developed with aesthetic landscaping and an array of fountains, rain shelters and paths in 15 different urban estates. On the horticulture front, roadside plantation and development of the green belt along the major roads have been taken in a big way.

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The government has made remarkable strides in pushing urban development in the state. It can be gauged from the fact that from 1977 to 2005, Rs 2,481.16 crore was spent on development, but since the time the Hooda government assumed office in March 2005, the government has spent Rs 2,521.9 crore on development. HUDA has spent a record Rs 878.61 crore on development works last year.

The government has made remarkable strides in pushing urban development in the state. It can be gauged from the fact that from 1977 to 2005, Rs 2,481.16 crore was spent on development, but since the time the Hooda government assumed office in March 2005, the government has spent Rs 2,521.9 crore on development. HUDA has spent a record Rs 878.61 crore on development works last year.

During the current financial year, the government has set a budget of Rs 925 crore for development works. From April to June, it has already spent Rs 183.47 crore.

WORKS COMPLETED

The government has taken up various major works in the state, including the widening and strengthening of roads. In Gurgaon, the service roads along the MG Road have been completed at a cost of Rs 6.46 crore. Also, the strengthening of the 60-metre-wide roads in various sectors has been completed at a cost of Rs 8.5 crore. In Rohtak, the six-laning of the National Highway-10 from Hanuman Temple to the Jawaharlal Nehru Canal has been completed at a cost of Rs 20 crore. The work on the four-laning of NH-71 from MDU Chowk to Sukhpura Chowk has been completed at a cost of Rs 9.5 crore. Also, the construction of the road connecting the IG Residence Chowk to the Jhajjar Road is complete. The Rewari bye-pass from the Delhi-Rewari Road to the Pataudi-Rewari Road has been completed at a cost of Rs 8.63 crore.

Besides, many other works have been completed, like the Mini-Secretariat at Jind, Gymkhana Club at Jagadhri, a police station at Thanesar, a modern auditorium, a herbal garden, a golf club and water works at Panchkula, remodelling of the Bohar drain at Rohtak and laying of the synthetic athletic track at the sports complex in Panchkula.

The water supply has been augmented by constructing a boosting station at Panchkula. A sewage treatment plant has also come up at Rohtak.

DEVELOPMENT WORKS FOR 2009-10

During the current financial year, many major projects are coming up in the state. Low-cost dwelling units will be constructed in urban sectors of Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Panchkula by the end of this year. Besides, the construction on the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Stadium has begun and will be completed by April 2010. The construction of the gymkhana club building at Bahadurgarh will be completed by March 2010 and the ITI building at Rohtak by November 2010.

Many water and sewage treatment



Building metalled roads

plants are also coming up. The work on the 10 MLD sewage treatment plant at Bahadurgarh will be completed by September 2010. The construction of the 50 MLD sewage treatment plant at Behrampur in Gurgaon is expected to be completed by August this year and of the 15 MLD sewage treatment plant at Panchkula by the end of this year. By September this year, the construction of the second waterworks of 66 MGD at Chandu Budhera, Gurgaon, will be started at a total cost of Rs 86.44 crore.

The government is also taking up the construction of road over-bridges and bypasses in the state. The work on making a bypass road along Sectors 37 to 59 in Faridabad is in progress. It will cost Rs 128.7 crore and will be completed in May 2010. Also, the work on construction of the railway over-bridges on the bypass road between

Sectors 59 and 61 near the Malerna railway crossing, Faridabad, and at the railway crossing on the Chandigarh-Kalka rail line in Panchkula will be completed by June 2010. Another two railway over-bridges at Rohtak -- on the Rohtak-Gohana railway line and Delhi-Bathinda railway line -- will be completed by December this year.

SPORTS COMPLEXES

To boost the sportsman spirit in the Haryanvi youth, the government is constructing sports complexes at Rohtak and Ambala. An international-level sports complex -- Rajiv Gandhi State Sports Complex -- is coming up on 90.6 acres of land in Sector 6, Rohtak. It will have a provision for an athletic track, a practice athletic track, handball, basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis courts, cricket, hockey and football grounds, a multipurpose hall, wrestling and boxing halls, archery, kho kho, kabaddi and squash courts, a skating rink, hostels, shops and a swimming pool. Till June, a sum of Rs 18.8 crore has been incurred on it. The work on the boundary wall, roads and parks, handball ground, volleyball court, basketball court, kabaddi ground and the kho kho ground has been completed.

HUDA is also developing the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex at the Sector 10 Urban Estate in Ambala City. It was started in May 2007 and is coming up



Adequate water supply for all

at a cost of Rs 8.58 crore. It will have various facilities like an athletic pavilion and a badminton hall besides the lawn tennis, basketball, volleyball and kabaddi courts. The sports complex is likely to be constructed by April 2010.

RAJIV GANDHI EDUCATION CITY

New institutions of excellence for higher education and research are also being set up in Haryana. The government has decided to set up the Rajiv Gandhi Education City at Kundli in Sonapat in which 25 per cent of the



TARGETS DURING 2009-10

• Water supply lines	162 km
• Sewer lines	151 km
• Storm water drainage	210 km
• Construction of roads	341 km
• Special repair of roads	376 km
• Streetlight poles	5,806
• Transformers	273
• Plants	3 lakh
• Tree guards	33,000
• Grill/fencing	81 km

seats would be reserved for the students from the state.

In this City, 40 educational institutes on plots of sizes ranging from 2.42 acres to 165.23 acres will be constructed with a provision for hostels, staff housing, hotels, shopping arcades, medical centres, a post office and a police station. There will be a provision for a convention centre, seminar halls, an art gallery, an auditorium, a weekly market, a food court and an international university centre.

It will also have a lake on 12.5 acres in the centre where a rainwater harvesting system will be put in place to make the full use of rainwater. The City will also have the provision for the solid waste and sewage treatment plants. The sewage water after the tertiary treatment will be recycled for the greens and toilets.

ROADS

The government has laid a special emphasis

on widening and strengthening of roads. It has set aside a budget of Rs 51.65 crore for repairing the roads in the current financial year. Of this, Rs 25.47 crore will be spent on roads in Faridabad, Gurgaon and Sonapat districts. Another Rs 26.18 crore has been set aside for Hisar, Karnal, Panchkula and Rohtak districts. Under the programme, a total of 375.9 km of roads will be repaired.

In Gurgaon, following heavy rains last year, a large number of master roads and internal roads were damaged. To undertake the repair of damaged roads, HUDA decided to get all the master and internal roads repaired within three months at an expenditure of Rs 30 crore. Till date, 99.39 km of master roads and 52.59 km of internal roads have been repaired. Besides, additional roads have also been repaired at an expenditure of Rs 26.62 crore. Of this, Rs 11.84 crore has been spent on constructing 25.22 km of cement and concrete roads and Rs 14.78 crore on the construction of bituminous roads. A total of 273 km of

roads have been repaired at a cost of Rs 56.62 crore.

To decongest the National Highway No. 2 -- Delhi to Mathura -- at Faridabad, HUDA has decided to widen the two-lane bypass road to a six-lane road, from Sector 37 to Sector 59. The work was started in November 2008 and is likely to be completed by May 2010 at a cost of Rs 128.7 crore.

HUDA has also decided to upgrade the basic infrastructure facilities in Sector 32 at Gurgaon in which the main circulation roads will be upgraded with the cement concrete road specifications. Storm water drains are being provided along all roads for a quick disposal of rainwater and streetlight fittings are being replaced with sodium vapour lamps. Rs 6 crore is likely to be spent on the upgradation.

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS

The government is constructing water and sewage treatment plants in many parts of the state. Besides, it is also focusing on the water supply from



An under-construction road over-bridge



For a comfortable living

external sources. The Ranney Well Project, Faridabad, will augment the water supply. The construction on the project will be completed by January 2010. Under the project, 15 tubewells will be started, of which eight have been commissioned and the rest will be commissioned by August. The estimated cost is Rs 28.12 crore, of which Rs 14.34 crore has been used.

The third unit of the 20 million gallons per day (MGD) water treatment plant at Basai, Gurgaon, is coming up at a cost of Rs 13.84 crore. The construction of the plant was started in April 2007 and today 80 per cent of its civil structure has been completed. Its 10 MGD plant became operational in July and the other 10 MGD plant will be operational in August.

The setting up of the 50 MLD sewage treatment plant at Behrampur in Gurgaon at a cost of Rs 21.65 crore is in full swing. Till now, an expenditure of Rs 17.07 has been incurred on the project.

Besides, a sewage treatment plant of 15 MLD capacity is also coming up on 12 acres at Sector 28, Panchkula, at an estimated cost of Rs 9.86 crore. It was started in February last year and is likely to be completed by December

2009. Till date, a sum of Rs 3.49 crore has been spent on the construction. The treatment plant will cover Sectors 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31 and 32 of the town.

The government is also providing external water supply in Sectors 1, 3, 4, 5 and the Mela Ground Area at Hisar. For this, it has decided to spend Rs 1,373.7 crore. The 20 MLD water treatment plant is being built on 38.61 acres of land.

On the other hand, to provide canal-based water supply to Sectors 6 to 11 in Jind, the government will spend Rs 14.8 crore in the first phase. The work on the first unit of the 10 MLD capacity was started in March 2008 and will be completed by March 2010. Till May, a sum of Rs 5.27 crore has been spent on it.

DWELLING UNITS

HUDA has formulated the Ashiana scheme for economically-weaker sections, who will be allotted flats giving them a better quality of life. The scheme will benefit slum-dwellers and discourage the growth of unauthorised colonies. The beneficiaries will have the opportunity to own flats in easy instalments. Under this scheme, the work has been started

at Panchkula, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Ambala. Under this, 2,072 dwelling units are coming up at Panchkula, 560 at Gurgaon, 3,080 at Faridabad and 1,640 units at Ambala. A total of 7,352 dwelling units are under construction at a cost of Rs 250.87 crore. HUDA has provided 81.55 acres of land for constructing these flats free of cost.

There are 15,311 units which are yet to be constructed for which 136 acres of land has been acquired. And for the other 14,850 units, 165 acres of land is under acquisition. These units will come up at a cost of Rs 1166.32 crore.

OVER-BRIDGES

HUDA is constructing a 790.72-metre railway over-bridge at Rohtak on the Rohtak-Panipat rail line at an estimated cost of Rs 30.25 crore. Of this, 23.87 metres will be constructed by the railways and the remaining by HUDA. Till now Rs 27.61 crore has been spent on the project. HUDA has completed 90 per cent of the work and the railways about 40 per cent. The over-bridge will be completed by October this year.

Another railway over-bridge is also coming up at Rohtak on the Delhi-Bathinda railway line at a cost of Rs 34.51 crore. Its construction work

commenced in January last year and till now 40 per cent of the work has been completed with an expenditure of Rs 11.27 crore. The over-bridge is likely to be constructed by December.

BRIDGES ON CANALS

To facilitate the smooth flow of vehicular traffic on the National Highway 10, HUDA is constructing a three-lane bridge over the Jawaharlal Nehru Canal and the Bhalaut sub-branch of the West Yamuna Canal on the outskirts of Rohtak. The over-bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs 8.13 crore and will have a length of 446.10 metre. The work on the project started in June last year and till date, 65 per cent of the work has been completed at a cost of Rs 4.53 crore. It is likely to be completed by September this year.

METRO RAIL EXTENSION

The work on the Delhi-Gurgaon Metro rail link is in process. The project will be completed before the beginning of the Commonwealth Games in 2010. The government has decided to extend the Delhi Metro rail to Gurgaon, Faridabad and Bahadurgarh. The Metro extension to Gurgaon is in full swing. By January 2010, the Metro rail will cover a route of 14.47 km -- 7.05 km of it falling in Haryana and 7.42 km in Delhi. The project will cost Rs 1,422 crore of which Haryana's share is Rs 592 crore. Of this, the government has already released Rs 453.75 crore.

The government has also decided to extend the Metro rail to Faridabad, which will have a total length of 13.87 km. The project will cost Rs 1,422 crore. The Haryana government and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited have approved the project, while the approval of the Delhi government is still awaited.

OTHER CONSTRUCTIONS

NEW POLYCLINICS

The government has decided to construct polyclinics in a cluster of three to four sectors in all urban estates instead of providing a dispensary in each sector. A total of 17 polyclinics are to be constructed, of which 10 are under construction at Ambala, Bahadurgarh, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Kurukshetra,

Panchkula, Rohtak and Sonipat and the remaining seven polyclinics will come up at Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Jagadhri, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal and Panipat in the current financial year. The cost of the construction of each polyclinic, which will come up on 1.25 acres of land, will be Rs 3 crore.

NEW SENIOR CITIZEN CLUBS

The present government has also decided to construct senior citizen clubs in all the towns where HUDA has developed its sectors. Nine senior citizen clubs are to be constructed in the state with a multipurpose hall, a dispensary, a rest room, a reading room, an entrance lounge and an office room. Seven clubs are under construction at Bhiwani, Hisar, Jhajjar, Karnal, Panchkula, Rohtak and Sonipat whereas two others will come up at Kaithal and Rewari in the current financial year. Each club will cost Rs 90 lakh.

ITI AT ROHTAK

HUDA is also constructing a three-storey ITI building on 15 acres of land in Sector 5, Rohtak. The cost for the construction of the building is about Rs 54.62 crore and till date Rs 13.63 crore has been spent and 25 per cent of the work completed. The work started in December last year and is likely to be completed by November 2010.

CLUB BUILDING, PANCHKULA

HUDA has also decided to construct a club building at Sector 1, Mansa Devi Complex, Panchkula, at a cost of Rs 3.9 crore. It will be completed by June 2010. The civil structure of the

building has been completed and the design for furnishing and interior decoration is being done.

HEALTH CLUB BUILDING

The health club building is also under construction at Sector 1, Mansa Devi Complex, Panchkula, at a cost of Rs 3.86 crore. It was started in May 2008 and is likely to be completed by March 2010. The building will have a total covered area of 22,235 sq ft. The civil structure work is nearing completion. The health club will have facilities like a squash court, a gym, a maintenance room, toilets, aerobics, a yoga room and a table tennis room on the first floor.

GYMKHANA CLUB BUILDING

The work on the gymkhana club building in Sector 9, Bahadurgarh, is in full swing. Its structural work has been completed and it is being given the finishing touch. An expenditure of Rs 3.23 crore will be incurred on it and till May, Rs 2.03 crore has been spent. The work will be completed by March 2010.

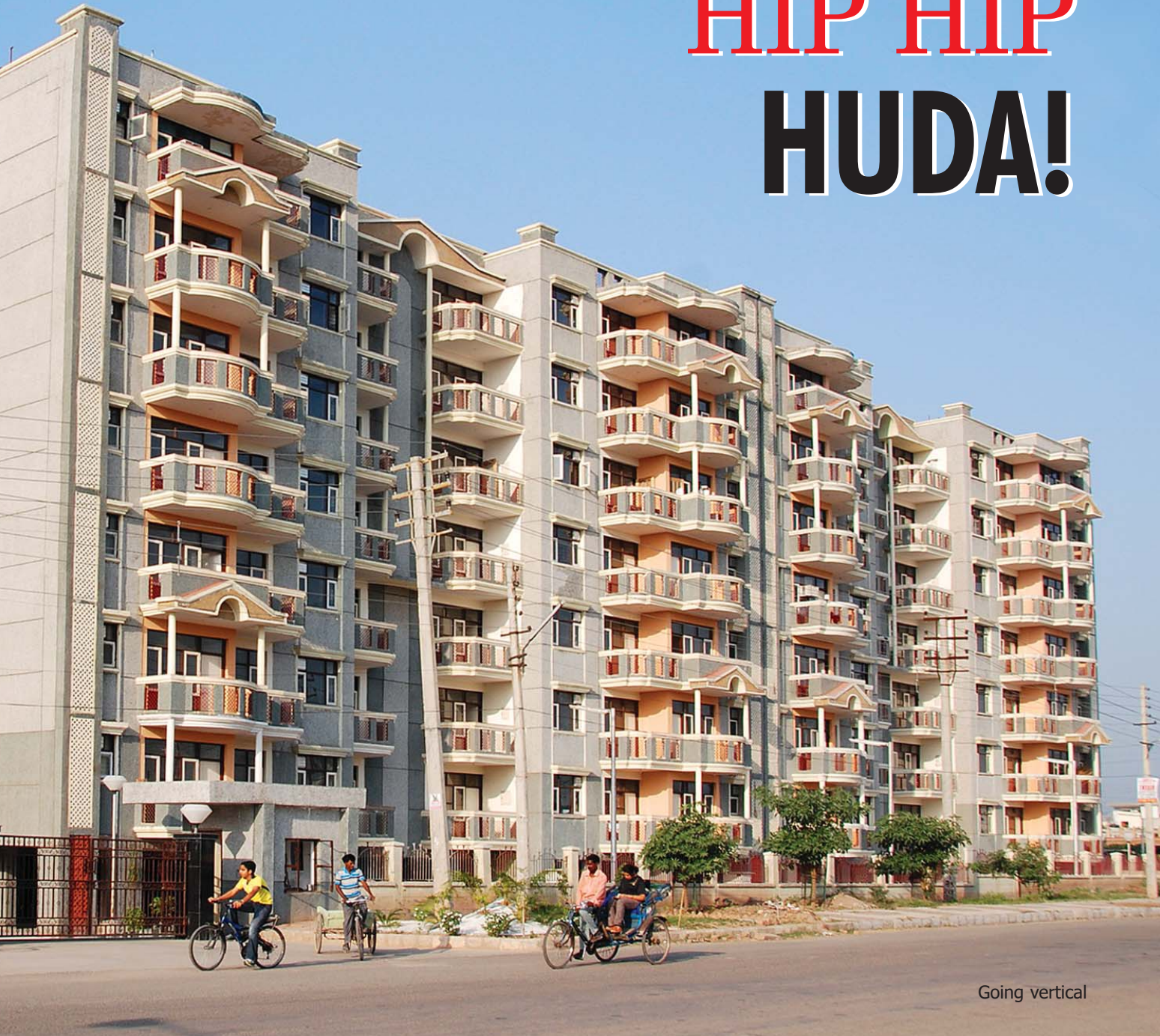
DEENBANDHU CHHOTU RAM SAMARAK

The development of the Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Samarak Parisar, Garhi Sampla, Rohtak, is in full swing. The construction of the boundary wall, pavement, parking and the rain shelter has been completed and the work on the museum dome and the multipurpose hall is in progress. Till May this year, an expenditure of Rs 3.09 crore has been incurred. The parisar will be ready by December this year. ■

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS -- CONSTRUCTED AND UNDER-CONSTRUCTION

Building Construction	Constructed	Under	To be built during 2009-10	Total
Primary schools	86	6	11	103
Senior secondary schools	18	2	2	22
Police posts	94	3	14	111
Police stations	17	3	10	30
Dispensaries	33	2	5	40
Community centres	114	12	20	146
Banquet halls	-	--	5	5
Polyclinics	-	10	7	17
Senior citizen clubs/ daycare centres	-	7	2	9
Total	362	45	76	483

HIP HIP HUDA!



Going vertical

Amanbir Kaur Brar

The Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) came into being in 1977. It is a statutory body set up under the Haryana Urban Development Authority Act. It started with a small capital of Rs 1 crore but

today its kitty has swelled manifold.

However, measuring HUDA's contribution towards planned, comfortable and homogenous towns by its growing capital alone won't be fair. It has developed and practised a new concept of urban development and is considered a pioneer among the

urban estate developers in the country. States like Punjab to which Haryana owes its existence emulated Haryana's concept of development. No haphazard growth, no congestion, neatly laid-out sectors and townships called urban estates are mushrooming all over the state -- 28 urban estates

and 31 mandi towns in all. And that is not all. Till date, HUDA has acquired about 55,000 acres of land and planned about 2.4 lakh freehold residential plots.

Over the years, Haryana has become a major industrial and commercial centre attracting a wide array of industry. The growth rate of the urban population in the state in the last decade has been 50.9 per cent, way above the national average of 31.13, which has brought about a change in the thinking of its people. With the high growth rate and rising income, Haryans are willing to spend more. As a result, modern amenities like well-equipped residential complexes, hospitals and shopping centres have become the need of the hour.

To meet this demand, HUDA is developing new sectors in almost all the towns. Till date, HUDA has developed 205 residential, 43 industrial and 23 commercial sectors. Of the 205 residential sectors, 36 have come up in Gurgaon, 33 in Faridabad, 29 in Panchkula, 15 in Karnal, 10 each in Hisar, Panipat and Ambala, six each in Rohtak and Sonipat and the rest in other towns. Besides, its three sports complexes are functional at Gurgaon, Panchkula and Sirsa and two more are coming up at Rohtak and Ambala.

In the seventies, at the time of HUDA's formation, its working was confined to the allotment of houses. But over the years, it has widened its scope to activities like development of urban areas in a systematic and planned way with the power to acquire, sell and dispose of property and use the acquired land for residential, industrial, recreational and commercial purposes. It also makes available developed land to the Haryana Housing Board and other such bodies for providing houses to the economically-weaker sections and undertakes building works.

Earlier, people preferred living right in the heart of a town but the development of various sectors by HUDA on the outskirts of almost all the towns has changed their mindset. Now more and more people dream of owning a house in a HUDA sector. In towns like Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula, HUDA has come up with the concept of group housing. It has already set up a number of hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, schools,

community centres, clubs, fire stations, police stations and parks in the urban estates. It is also undertaking the development of commercial sites, malls and city centres. HUDA has constructed 14 gymkhana clubs, two auditoriums -- at Gurgaon and Panchkula -- 86 primary schools, 17 high schools, a college, 94 police posts, 17 police stations, 33 dispensaries, 114 community halls and two old-age homes.

HUDA has stood the test of time. Today, Haryana being one of the favoured destinations for real estate developers, many NRIs are investing in the HUDA property at Panchkula, Faridabad and Gurgaon. The HUDA website enables people view the draw results online. Its website -- www.huda.nic.com -- has also made its working transparent. It boasts of being one of the most hi-tech departments in the state. Earlier, the transactions between HUDA and its allottees were done manually and there was official interference at every level, leading to loss in productivity and revenue. Each new allotment took three to six months to get the application processed, leading to inconvenience to the allottees besides bringing HUDA a bad name. But today the things have changed and the draw results are available at the click of a mouse. For administrative convenience and expediency, HUDA is divided into five zones -- Panchkula, Hisar, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Rohtak.

The foremost reason for HUDA's success is its administrative efficiency and set up that highlight and aim at the speedy implementation of various housing schemes. HUDA's constructive efforts have transformed towns like Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat and Panchkula into dream destinations for housing companies in Haryana to undertake the real estate development. No wonder the real estate market in Haryana witnesses transactions

Works

Roads constructed	6,956 km
Water supply lines	3,154 km
Sewage lines	2,857 km
Storm water drainage lines	1,852 km
Water treatment plants	10
Sewage treatment plants	4
Sports complexes	3
Cremation grounds	7
Under-construction road over-bridges	3
Under-construction road under-bridges	1

involving astronomical sums whenever a HUDA auction takes place with many a commercial giant from the hospitality industry making a beeline to it.

The main objective of an organisation should be public service and the welfare of people and HUDA is right on the money when it comes to achieving these ideals. It offers reservation in residential plots for various categories. The percentage of the plots for economically-weaker sections has increased from 20 to 35 per cent. One lakh affordable dwelling units are to come up under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. Of these, HUDA is building 50,000 houses. In the first phase, it plans to construct 25,107 houses on 298 acres in the urban estates at Ambala, Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hisar, Jagadhri, Jind, Kaithal, Panchkula, Rewari, Rohtak and Sirsa.

With the ever-increasing population, the number of towns is also increasing. In 1991, there were 94 towns; currently the number has risen to 106. According to an estimate, by the year 2050, 90 per cent of the population in the state will be urban. The population pressure on the land is increasing so we cannot expand the houses horizontally and hence the concept of multi-storey houses. With the ever-expanding boundaries of the cities and a large influx of population to them, ensuring quality development is a challenge HUDA has to face. ■

A TALE OF THREE CITIES



Fast lanes: Eight-lane expressway between Delhi and Gurgaon

Aparna Pawar

Haryana -- a small part of the undivided Punjab -- was considered a backward area. But after its inception 43 years ago, its development gathered pace and today it is one of the leading states in the country, ready to adopt new trends of industrialisation and urbanisation.

Cities like Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula are examples of the fact that Haryana is on the fast track of urbanisation. Gurgaon and Faridabad had an advantage because of their proximity to Delhi, which led to their growth.

GURGAON

Today's Gurgaon -- also referred to as the Singapore of India -- was a small farming village where people believed in traditional culture and values. The growth of the city took place 20 years ago when Delhi gained ground on the economic front. It brought in a large influx of labourers from the neighbouring states, increasing Delhi's population to such an extent that by the early 1990s, it was one of the most crowded cities.

There arose the need for a satellite city. And Gurgaon became an ideal choice, given its vast undeveloped farming land and proximity to Delhi.

The development of infrastructure by the state government coupled with its strategic location has attracted many companies -- national and international -- to invest here. As a result, the city is one of the major manufacturing and service industry hubs in northern India. Its proximity to the the Indira Gandhi International Airport saw its emergence as one of the most prominent outsourcing and offshoring hubs, leading to a rapid growth in the employment prospects and subsequently to the mushrooming of shopping malls, restaurants and entertainment facilities.

From real estate to corporate sector and from shopping to tourism, Gurgaon has it all. Automobile giants like Maruti Udyog Limited, Hero Honda, Honda Motors and Suzuki Motorcycles have provided a momentum to the rapid industrialisation in the city. Today the automobile industry of Gurgaon is producing passenger cars, motorcycles, scooters and its

components worth Rs 28,000 crore.

Also, there are many prominent units involved in the manufacturing of telecommunication equipment, electrical goods, software development, hardware, sports goods, rubber products, readymade garments, light engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, food items, air-conditioners, shoes, pesticides and insecticides. It has also emerged as a preferred destination for the IT industry following the Haryana government's announcement of the IT Policy.

The city boasts of an annual industrial turnover of Rs 46,000 crore, with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore. There are 402 large and medium scale units with an investment of Rs 9,000 crore and around 8,000 small scale units with an investment of Rs 890 crore. The employment generated in the industrial sector has crossed the two lakh mark.

With a massive increase in its population and economy after the real estate development, many real estate groups like DLF, Ansal, Omaxe and Unitech have started developing housing societies for the upper-middle

class residents of the congested and heavily-polluted Delhi. Thousands of professionals have made Gurgaon their home, living in apartments or in newly-constructed colonies.

The Mall Capital of India, Gurgaon has over three dozen malls like DLF City Centre, MGF Metropolitan, Ambience, Gurgaon Central and Ambi Mall, which is the largest in south Asia. Besides, there are the MGF Megacity Mall, Wedding Mall and Gold Souk. The Mall of India to be completed next year will be among the largest in the world.

To cater to the rising demands of people travelling every day for work, an eight-lane expressway runs between Delhi and Gurgaon, which forms a section of the Golden Quadrilateral project. The Metro will also come up in Gurgaon next year.

FARIDABAD

Faridabad is also developing fast. The city is situated on the Delhi-Mathura Road, 32 km from New Delhi. To rehabilitate the displaced people following the Partition, a new industrial town was conceived in the western part of the city in 1950. Initially, there were only a few industries and over a period of time, the area has grown phenomenally. Currently, there are about 15,000 small, medium and large industries in Faridabad, providing direct and indirect employment to nearly half a

million people.

The industrial estate has come up because of its proximity to Delhi and Gurgaon. Multinational companies like Whirlpool, Goodyear, Larsen and Toubro, Asia Brown Boveri, GKN Invel, Castrol, Escorts and Nuchem operate from here.

A variety of engineering products ranging from forgings to tractors are being manufactured here. The total land occupied by the industries is about 6,948 hectares. The city has now become one of the favoured destinations for investment in real estate.

The Badkhal Lake, Surajkund, Aravali Golf Club and the Raja Nahar Singh Palace are well-known tourist spots.

The people of Faridabad have adopted the modern lifestyle owing to an industrial economy. A survey shows that its people are among the top 10 buyers of healthcare and beauty products in India. The government plans to introduce the Metro rail in the city by 2012.

PANCHKULA

Clubs, sports facilities, stylish shopping arcades and fast-food joints. Once a sleepy town, Panchkula today is a happening city. The place has seen largescale development ever since it became a district in 1995.

Panchkula is a planned city

adjoining Chandigarh, and has been developed on the lines of the City Beautiful. It is divided into residential and industrial sectors, parks, areas for recreation, institutes and markets besides government and semi-government offices.

It has a golf course, a sports complex, a modern auditorium and many parks. Then there's the Gymkhana Club offering sports facilities, a swimming pool and indoor games to the elite.

There are shopping malls like the Shalimar and the upcoming Bella Vista. Besides, several well-stocked supermarkets have come up. Various gift galleries also cater to the people of all ages, especially the youth. Fast-food joints have come up all over the town in the past couple of years and have become the favourite hang-outs of the youth.

The city has an industrial area developed by HUDA, where the Bharat Electronics Limited, a Government of India enterprise, has been set up on 23 hectares of land. It also has an HMT factory at Pinjore.

Panchkula is also a tourist's delight. The only hill station in the state -- Morni Hills -- lies in the district. The climate is salubrious and the area suitable for trekking. The other tourist places are the Yadavindra Gardens at Pinjore, Mansa Devi Temple and the Nada Sahib Gurdwara. ■



REALISING dreams



Caring for the poor

Ruchi Sharma

The poor man's eternal dream of owning a house will no more be a dream only as the Haryana government has embarked upon an ambitious programme of providing dwelling units to the economically-weaker sections. The state agencies like the Haryana Urban Development Authority, Haryana Housing Board and Urban Local Bodies Department will undertake the construction of such units. Towards this end, the state government has initiated various schemes.

FREE PLOTS BY HUDA

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda announced this scheme in 2007, which will benefit thousands of people belonging to the weaker sections. HUDA is constructing 37,513 houses for these sections in phases. Of these, 15,311 houses have already come up in 2008-09 at a cost of Rs 460 crore. Another 7,352 houses are under construction at Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Panchkula.

HARYANA HOUSING BOARD

The Housing Board will construct about 25,000 houses of different categories at various places in the state. These include 1,200 houses for industrial workers, 15,000 for weaker sections and 2,250 rural houses which

will come up on panchayat land. The Board has already taken up the construction of 3,222 houses of various categories and a rural housing colony at Madlauda village in Panipat district. One third of the houses being constructed have been reserved for women.

The construction of these units in the state will help the poor living in urban areas own a house. The Board has reduced the prices of such houses by up to 20 per cent. HUDA is providing 65 acres of land to the Board at Bahadurgarh, Jind, Hisar, Kaithal and Sirsa for the purpose. Till March this year, the Board has constructed 62,537 houses, of which 11,641 are for the weaker sections. For an economically-weaker section person to be eligible for the scheme, the monthly income of the family should not exceed Rs 3,300.

MAHATMA GANDHI GRAMIN BASTI YOJANA

The Mahatma Gandhi Gramin Basti Yojana, the first-of-its-kind rural township scheme costing Rs 2,400 crore, was started on October 2, 2008. Under this, free residential plots of 100 square yard each are given to the SC and below poverty line families. In the coming few years, 6.5 lakh families would benefit from the scheme. Till January this year, 1.18 lakh plots have been allotted.

Under the scheme, the colonies will first be provided with the basic amenities and only then the plots would be allotted. The cost of developing each plot will be Rs 25,000. The Chief Minister says, "Of about 7,000 villages in the state, land has been made available for plots in 5,000 villages. The government will soon acquire land in the remaining villages."

INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA

The scheme aims at providing financial assistance to the BPL homeless rural people in constructing a house. The 75 per cent of the cost has to be shared by the Centre and the rest by the state. Under this scheme, against the target of 13,229 houses, 13,134 houses were constructed in 2008-09.

A sum of Rs 274 crore is being spent on the scheme. Cheques worth Rs 17.8 lakh have been distributed to 89 families of Sirsa who fall in the BPL category. About 5,000 houses have already come up in Sirsa district at a cost of Rs 17.5 crore. As many as 1,500 families have been given financial assistance for the purpose. Besides, the district administration has also contributed towards the construction of 2,000 houses.

The Chief Minister has already laid the foundation stone of the OP Jindal Housing Board Colony that is to come up on 19.37 acres in Sector 4 of Hisar at a cost of Rs 53.4 crore. It will have 328 double-storey houses and 192 four-storey flats for the weaker sections.

HOUSING SCHEME FOR SCS, DE-NOTIFIED TRIBES

The Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes initiated a scheme called the Housing Scheme for the Scheduled Castes and De-notified Tribes to facilitate housing for these sections. Under this, a grant of Rs 50,000 for construction and another Rs 10,000 for repairs is given to the SCs and De-notified Tribe persons who fall in the BPL category. Such houses must have at least a room along with a verandah-cum-kitchen. The scheme will cover 5,040 beneficiaries in 2009-10.

All these schemes introduced by the state government with the active co-operation of the Centre will go a long way in fulfilling the dream of the poor – that is of having a roof over their head. ■



LOHARU MANDI: A marvel in architecture

Dev Brat Vashisth

After the creation of Haryana in 1966, new foodgrain markets have come up in almost all towns – big and small. But the unique Anaj Mandi on the outskirts of Loharu built more than 70 years ago still stands out for its planning and architecture.

The Amin Mandi built in 1938 is situated opposite the railway station at Loharu, formerly a princely state. Loharu is currently a sub-divisional headquarters of Bhiwani district, situated 60 km from it.

According to legend, Loharu was inhabited by a number of blacksmiths and hence it came to be called Lohargarh; later it became Loharu. In the old days, it was a part of the Jaipur state. During the eighteenth century, the local Thakurs revolted against the Jaipur regime and established a separate state.

The Amin Mandi is unique as far as its architecture is concerned. It has two big gates – one for the entrance and the other for the exit. The construction of the mandi started in 1938 and it was completed in 1941. The first shop in the mandi started business in 1939.

According to a view, there were 52 villages under the Loharu state, hence it was also called the Bawani Riyasat. So is the number of weeks in a year. The number of weeks added to the number of villages comes to 104, the exact number of shops built in the mandi. There are seven pillars in front of the veranda of every shop, signifying seven days of the week. In the earlier days, the construction on the upper portion of the shops was not allowed but now people have started constructing their residences there.

During the Nawab's regime, it was one of the most flourishing mandis in the region and people had to pay

handsome amounts as pagri to have a shop there. The main reason for the flourishing of the mandi was the smuggling of banned foodgrain items to other states. For instance, in 1940, when the transportation of a few food items was banned, the local traders made huge profits by smuggling these foodgrains to various places. At that time, long queues of camels could be seen all around the mandi, recalls an old man.

Not far from the mandi is the Fort of Loharu built by Arjun Singh in 1570. Later, the Nawab's residence was built inside the fort in 1870. After the state was abolished, the Haryana government purchased the residential palace of the fort, where revenue and tehsil offices were located till 1998. In the middle of the town, there is the Shikarband temple built during the regime of the Shekhawati ruler. ■

The writer is a Bhiwani-based journalist.



Panchkula: New sector new houses

36,000 HOUSES in two years

Rajiv Kapur

The Haryana government is making all efforts to realise Mahatma Gandhi's dream of providing food, shelter and clothing to every person. People somehow manage food and clothing but owning a house seems a tall order as one needs a lot of money for it. A poor man is happy as long as he is able to make ends meet.

To make poor man's dream come true, the state government has formulated a plan under which 100 square yard plots are being allotted to them. These plots will be developed by the government agencies before being handed over to the poor. These will be equipped with all basic amenities being provided in the modern housing complexes.

In pursuit of this initiative, the Haryana Housing Board has chalked out an ambitious plan of constructing 36,000 houses in the next two years, at a cost of Rs 162 crore. The Board has constructed 63,171 houses since its inception in 1971. Of the total houses constructed so far, 45,134 have been for

the economically-weaker sections and lower income groups.

Board Chief Administrator S P Gupta says the objective of constituting the Board is to provide shelter to all sections of society, especially the weaker ones.

He says the Haryana Housing Board is the first housing board in the country which provides 33 per cent reservation to women. With a view to providing housing facilities to the poor sections, the Board is constructing 2,772 houses at a cost of Rs 320 crore at Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Sonipat, Bahadurgarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Dharuhera and Madlauda. Of these, 1,154 are meant for the economically-weaker sections and lower income groups and 1,618 for the other categories.

Elaborating on the new projects, Gupta says the construction of 1,028 houses of various categories in the OP Jindal Housing Complex, Hisar, at a cost of Rs 103.4 crore is in progress. To meet the housing needs of the industrial labour, the new projects involving the construction of 1,200

flats for industrial workers of various categories are being taken up at Bawal in Rewari and Barhi in Sonipat at a cost of Rs 157 crore.

Under the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, to provide affordable houses to people, the Housing Board has taken up mass housing for various categories, particularly in small towns and big villages. For this, land is being arranged by acquisition besides purchasing it from HUDA, municipal committees and panchayats and also by private public partnership or joint venture. Rs 100 crore has been earmarked for the policy in the current budget. The Board has already purchased 6.7 acres of land at Bahadurgarh, 4.5 acres at Jind, 7.5 acres at Kaithal and 22.74 acres at Sirsa from HUDA, where about 4,500 houses for the weaker sections will be constructed.

To raise the living standard of the rural masses and provide them facilities available in urban areas, the Board has identified 400 acres of land at Adampur in Hisar, Kosli in Rewari, Kasar in Jhajjar and Khor in Mahendergarh, where 6,000 houses will be constructed. During the current financial year, the construction of about 2,500 dwelling units will be taken up.

Similarly, 125 acres of land under the municipal committees of Cheeka in Kaithal, Barwala in Hisar, Sadhaura in Yamunanagar and Pehowa in Kurukshetra has been identified, on which 7,000 houses will

be constructed.

Gupta says the Board has already developed one such colony at Madlauda village, where 82 independent houses are nearing completion. These have all infrastructural facilities like a park, a creche and a shopping complex on the pattern of the housing colonies in urban areas.

The Chief Administrator says the Board soon intends to take up the construction of affordable houses in all prominent places in Haryana. It will enter into public private partnership or a joint venture by inviting expression of interest for appointment of consultants and inviting bids from landowners, developers and builders having land in the residential zones. This year, 6,400 houses will be constructed under

The Haryana Housing Board is the first housing board in the country which provides 33 per cent reservation to women. With a view to providing housing facilities to the poor sections, the Board is constructing 2,772 houses at a cost of Rs 320 crore at Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Sonipat, Bahadurgarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Dharuhera and Madlauda. Of these, 1,154 are meant for the economically-weaker sections and lower income groups and 1,618 for the other categories.

- S P Gupta
Board Chief Administrator

this category.

He says the Board proposes to set

up the Vishwakarma Institute of Human Settlement, Management and Research at Gurgaon to impart training to those involved in the construction industry, like architects, engineers, project managers and NGOs. It will boost the construction of durable, cost-effective and quality houses. The institute will interact with such other institutes worldwide and arrange the transfer of technologies. The construction work of the institute will start shortly.

Gupta says the Board provides reservation in the allotment of houses for various categories, like the scheduled castes, backward classes, handicapped, blind, military personnel, ex-servicemen, war widows, freedom fighters, paramilitary forces, widows and senior citizens. ■

A housing complex: Nestled in the hills





LIVING IN MODERN MILIEU

Amanbir Kaur Brar

Urbanisation is the reality of the present century. Rapid industrialisation is changing the landscape of the towns and cities. As a result, people are migrating from rural to urban areas. Urbanisation today has become a worldwide phenomenon.

Approximately 38 per cent of the population in the developing world is currently urban. According to the UN estimates, it will rise to 60 per cent in 20 years. By the end of 2050, about 90 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas. Urbanisation, however, comes with its advantages and disadvantages.

The urban population in India is 27.8 per cent which was just 13.9 per cent at the time of Independence and 18 per cent in 1961. There were 3,700 towns in India in 1991 and today there are 1.7 lakh towns with more than one lakh population.

Haryana is no exception to the

phenomenon. In 1961, there were only 53 towns in the state and the urban population was 17 per cent. Ambala was the only town with more than one lakh population. Rohtak, Karnal, Panipat, Hisar, Bhiwani and Yamunanagar had a population of 50,000 to one lakh each. The other 46 towns had less than 50,000 of population. Today there are 107 towns and the urban population is 28.9 per cent. The urban population has increased by 11 per cent in the last four decades and it is ever increasing.

“Urbanisation is as much a social process as it is economic and territorial. It transforms societal organisations, the role of the family, the nature of work, and the way we choose to live and with whom. It also modifies domestic roles and relations within the family, and redefines concepts of individual and social responsibility,” says Prof Manjit Singh, lecturer in sociology at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Cities attract people as they offer

better employment, education, healthcare and other facilities. Besides, the multiculturalism of cities contributes to better quality of life and socio-cultural stimulation. The community pressure is less in cities, so people have a freedom to do whatever they like. Love marriages in cities are routine but in villages they are not so common.

However, the people in cities become self-centred and less concerned about others. There is a lack of warmth towards one's neighbours. In such a scenario, neighbourhood concerns and culture takes a backseat. Earlier, women used to share food with their neighbours. But nowadays hardly anyone is concerned about who lives next door. Following the pressure of city life and its rigours, people have less time for others and they couldn't care less. They are concerned only about their immediate families. Hence institutes like old-age homes, destitute homes and the home for the sick animals



Modern beauty: Gurgaon

have come up.

The fast-paced life has given rise to nuclear families. People are more educated and believe in small families. Strenuous efforts are made to educate and prepare a child for the cut-throat competition. Medha, a working woman from Rohtak, says, "I have a daughter and do not intend to have another child. I will be happy if I can provide good education to my daughter."

Life has changed to such an extent that one no more breaths the fresh air. We have come a long way from nature and our roots. Our children have become accustomed to the use of air-conditioners. They are not aware of the village life. The day is not far when villages will be a thing of the past. Jasreet, a Class I student in Chandigarh, used to think milk came only in packets till the time she visited her grandparents during summer break and saw a cow in flesh and blood for the first time.

Earlier, people used to take a bath in the open – at the village well or at a hand pump. However, things have changed and modern houses now have multiple bathrooms. When late Giani Zail Singh became the President, he

was asked as to how his life had changed. He replied that the biggest change was that earlier he used to take bath at a hand pump in the open, but now had lavish washrooms and spent at least an hour taking a bath.

Urbanisation has also led to the concept of privacy. People now understand that everyone has a right to privacy. There are separate rooms in the house for all the members and no one invades others' privacy. In earlier times, there was hardly any privacy worth the name as there were open houses with big courtyards. The entire family would sleep in the open and even the couples got very little time together. However, these things are fast becoming history.

The downside of urbanisation is that the relationships are becoming superficial and the emotional values have taken a backseat. In cities, people do not think beyond their families. In rural areas, people are not so selfish but at times they even take lives on the issue of land and property. The crime rate in the cities is more than that in rural areas. Every day we read in the newspapers about murder, abduction, rape and what not.

Though people in the cities are better educated and refined, they are not without their vices. Even in urban areas, women still suffer at the hands of their in-laws. The biggest problem the people who migrate from villages to cities face is that they find it difficult to alter their thinking. The problems start once their children grow up and there is a generation gap. Despite being part of the city life, the parents remain attached to their roots and are unable to appreciate the modern lifestyle.

The rapid urbanisation has also led to the creation of a fringe population, which mostly lives from hand to mouth. Poverty and mental health have a complex and multi-dimensional relationship. Urban population is heavily influenced by the changing cultural dynamics, leading to psychiatric problems like depression, alcoholism and delinquency.

To conclude, no country has achieved a significant economic growth without urbanisation. The only need of the hour is a judicious use of resources, a balanced approach to development and the sound government policies. ■

High-rise buildings for future



Putting plans in place

Ruchi Sharma

The creation of a city involves a lot of planning to cater to the needs of its inhabitants. But when the same city has to accommodate even the unplanned village migrants, it leads to problems for the inhabitants and throws challenges for the urban town planners.

The growth of the cities and their population is taking place amid a geographical chaos where a growing number of people have to cope with the limited space. However, if there is an advanced planning, many of the problems can be taken care of, as Haryana's experience so far has

As the state cannot expand horizontally, it has to expand vertically. And the city planners are concentrating on high-rise buildings to address the issue.

shown.

According to the 2001 census, the total population of Haryana was 2.11 crore. The projections show that its population by 2050 will be more than double the present population of 2.64 crore, whereas the area is just 44,212 sq km. The urban population is also expected to increase manifold. Now the question arises as to where would

these teeming millions live. The answer is that there is no going back on urbanisation but it should be planned. And here steps in the Town and Country Planning Department, that is working in this direction in co-ordination with the state government.

LURE OF CITY LIFE

The glamorous city life is a big attraction for villagers and they migrate to the cities for better education and employment opportunities. For them living in a city is more comfortable as it offers all basic amenities, like an uninterrupted electricity and water supply and quality health services.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

The growing urban population is resulting in congestion and giving rise to issues like accommodation of the growing population, their education and health needs besides the career prospects. The increasing urbanisation has also led to the mushrooming of slums as the support population or the domestic helps need places to live.

URBAN PLANNING

By 2050, the total population will grow manifold. This large population will need houses, education, health and other entertainment services. So the new infrastructure is being set up. As the state cannot expand horizontally, it has to expand vertically. And the city planners are concentrating on high-rise buildings to address the issue.

Haryana has taken a lead in the planned urbanisation of its towns and cities. The state has an advantage because of its proximity to the national capital; one third of the state's area falls under the National Capital Region. The authorities are studying the present requirements and are also keeping in mind the future projections for implementing their plans.

Urbanisation has also resulted in an increased number of automobiles on the roads. The existing urban roads

are incapable of accommodating the increasing number of vehicles, leading to frequent traffic jams. Besides, there is a lack of parking facilities. Hence multi-level parking complexes are coming up at prominent places. The demand for flats has been rising. The Group Housing culture has already caught on at Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula and is being taken up by the other districts.

With the rapidly-changing lifestyle, high-salaried people like software engineers, industrial managers, company directors and bureaucrats have special preferences in housing, education centres, health services and shopping centres. It has also led to the mushrooming of modern commercial malls in urban areas.

Haryana is well served by 14 tracks of railway lines, national highways and the KMP Express Highway. Looking at the future, special attention is being given to the four-laning, six-laning and eight-laning of roads. Railway and road over-bridges are being constructed to cope with the growing population.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All small and medium towns of the state are covered under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975. Besides, most of these towns are also covered under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of

Unregulated Development Act, 1963. Under these Acts, no person can carve out a colony and raise any construction at site within the jurisdiction of the said controlled areas and urban areas without obtaining a licence from the Director of the Town and Country Planning Department.

The builders cannot develop such towns in an unauthorised way as obtaining a licence under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, is the only option available to them. For successfully implementing their projects, the builders/developers should have a complete knowledge of the subject besides the Acts and Rules and Regulations.

The state government enacted the Haryana Apartment Act, 1983, to regulate the ownership of the common facilities of the group housing projects. For the purpose of an ensured planned development, planning norms have been formulated and procedures laid down for colony licences for group housing projects under the above Acts.

To conclude, the state government is leaving no stone unturned to see Haryana on the fast track of development as it has approved an outlay of Rs 580 crore for the Town and Country Planning Department in 2009-10 as compared to the Rs 309.5 crore in 2008-09. ■

Moving in the fast lane



AIDING URBAN TRENDS

Ruchi Sharma

The global trend of urbanisation varies from country to country and state to state. For a long time, the comfortable urban life has been appealing to the rural people and they have been migrating to towns. Today every fourth person in Haryana lives in towns as about 28 per cent of the population is urban. As the number of urban areas is increasing, their improvement has become paramount.

The state government plans to give impetus to the strengthening of infrastructure in urban areas, both institutionally and financially. To address the problem of the fast growing urban population in the state, the government has made elaborate provisions in the budget. The municipal bodies will be given adequate funds for improving the civic amenities in towns.

The government has also started various schemes. The schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme and Urban Solid Waste Management Programme are jointly funded by the Centre, state and the Urban Local Bodies Department. The government has increased the grant-in-aid to the Urban Local Bodies Department by 66 per cent.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was launched in the country in December 2005 for an integrated development of 63 identified cities. Initially, Faridabad town was covered under the scheme and now Panchkula has also been included. The ambitious project will be implemented for a period of seven years -- from 2005 to 2012. The development of infrastructure related

to water supply, sanitation, sewerage, solid waste management, road network and urban transport is the main thrust area.

Under this, six detailed project reports have been sanctioned for a comprehensive improvement in urban settlements with an outlay of Rs 768 crore. The Centre will bear 50 per cent of the cost whereas the state and Urban Local Bodies Department will bear 20 and 30 per cent of the cost respectively. The first instalment of Rs 62.73 crore has already been released.

Under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, four detailed project reports for integrated solid waste management projects and a sewage treatment plant at Bahadurgarh have been sanctioned with a total outlay of Rs 100 crore. Of this, Rs 41.9 crore has already been released. The Centre will pay 80 per cent of the cost, the state 10 per cent and the Urban Local Bodies



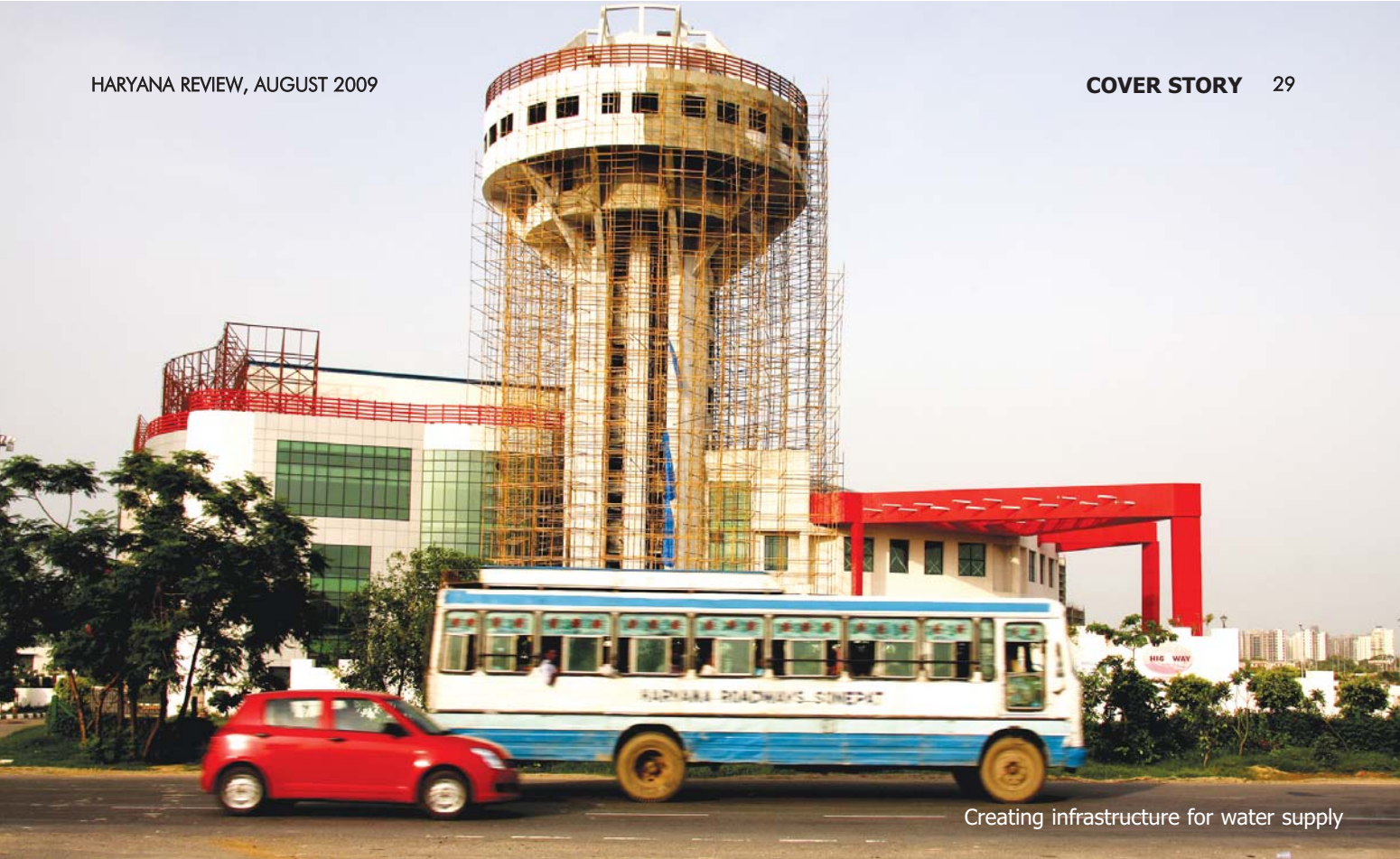
Department will pay 10 per cent of the cost.

Under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, detailed project reports for 12 towns with a cost of Rs 240 crore have been approved, of which Rs 91.47 crore has been released. There is a proposal to extend the development grants of Rs 1 crore each to 144 municipal wards in the state with more than 50 per cent SC population. The Centre will bear 80 per cent of the cost; the rest of the cost will be equally shared by the state and the Urban Local Bodies Department.

The Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme was launched in 2008 to convert dry latrines into low-cost sanitation ones and to construct new latrines in the houses of the weaker

BUDGET OUTLAY/EXPENDITURE 2008-09 AND PLAN OUTLAY 2009-10 (Rs in crore)

Name of scheme	Budget outlay (2008-09)	Expenditure (2008-09)	Approved Budget Outlay (2009-10)
Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	162	162	301
Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns	30	30	124
Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme	13	0	114
Urban Solid Waste Management	2	2	3
Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme	8	0	12
Scheme for Special Development Works in Municipal Areas	37	37	40



Creating infrastructure for water supply

sections living in the urban areas who have no such provision and relieve themselves in the open. Each unit costs Rs 10,000, of which 75 per cent of the cost is borne by the Centre, 15 per cent by the state and 10 per cent by the beneficiary. The services of the Sulabh Shauchalaya have also been solicited.

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, while appreciating the performance of the state in implementing the Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana, says, "In the last three years, the scheme has been the best in the country. The Urban Local Bodies Department has a tie-up with the Technical Education Department for its effective implementation. The scheme aims at enabling the poor to undertake self-employment ventures by imparting them training and extending financial assistance." The Centre will contribute 75 per cent of the cost and the state 25 per cent.

Under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, the Centre has allocated Rs 133.05 crore for the implementation of the scheme from 2005 to 2012. The programme covers all the towns of the state barring Faridabad and Panchkula, which are covered under another scheme.

The scheme for special development works was also launched to strengthen infrastructure, like roads, streets, parks, community centres and streetlights in the urban local bodies in Haryana. In the State Budget 2009-10, there has been a provision of Rs 40 crore for the municipalities.

Finance Minister Birender Singh says, "To meet the growing demand for resources in meeting the ongoing projects and new initiatives, Rs 1,334.38 crore has been allocated on the plan side and Rs 127.51 crore on the

non-plan side of the Budget for the urban development sector. It represents an overall increase of 265.49 per cent over the last year's budget."

The total outlay for all the schemes in the state budget was Rs 349.95 crore in 2008-09, which has been increased to Rs 720.23 crore in 2009-10. An outlay of Rs 1,200 crore has been estimated in the current budget for the urban development schemes and Rs 240 crore for the government residential buildings. ■

TENTH & ELEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN AND ANNUAL PLAN 2009-10

	Tenth Five Year Plan Approved Outlay Actual (Cr)	2007-08 Actual (Cr)	2008-09 Revised Outlay (Cr)	2009-10 (Cr)
Housing	56	30	37	16
Police housing and modernisation	125	35	78	45
Urban development	193	224	230	720
Town and country planning (NCR)	46	72	31	580

Honing skills for 21st century



The present Haryana government understood quite early the need to provide technical education not only to feed the booming industry but to provide gainful employment to the youth.

The result is that now every year, over a lakh of youths are getting employment-oriented technical education. New technical universities, a host of engineering institutes of world standard, management and other professional institutes now dot all the districts of Haryana.

Haryana Review Bureau

If one wants to see the winds of change, one must visit Haryana. From a monotonous tract of parched land and poor cousin of a disdainful big brother in the 1960s, the state is now a statement in diversity and prosperity. And the metamorphosis is nowhere as striking as in economic domain. From the depressing grey, the land mass across the state stands draped in green; the skyline is dotted with totems of modern industries and roads one feels like rolling up and take home! From

During the last four years, there has been an exponential growth of technical institutes in the state. In the year 2004-05, there were only 145 technical institutes offering diploma and degree courses with an intake of a mere 24,124 students. But currently, there are 489 technical institutes and the annual intake has crossed the one lakh mark, an increase of nearly 400 per cent.

also-ran, the state has leaped into the top league; it is now a hub of information technology and automobile and petroleum industries, to say the least.

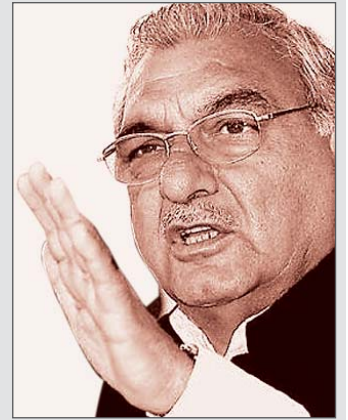
The intensity of the government's single-mindedness can be gauged from the fact that in a span of just five years, starting from 2004-05, the number of technical institutes in the state has grown up by a staggering 350 per cent; it shot from 145 to 489 in this period. The number of boys and girls enrolling every year registered a fourfold increase. From a mere 24,124 in 2004-05, the number has touched the

one lakh mark - 1,01,865 to be precise. And all this has come at a price. From a humble Rs 29 crore in 2004-05, Rs 158 crore has been set aside in the current financial year to carry on with the onward journey.

The major shift in the ground situation was not a solo drumbeat. The government was there, moving in swiftly to turn it into a symphony by dotting the state with excellent centres of technical education. As industrial towns buzzed with activity, up came scores of engineering colleges, polytechnics and ITIs. These seats of learning turned out skilled men and women in thousands. They played a vital role in sustaining the momentum of an unprecedented industrial growth. More importantly, the nearby institutions and a government committed to inclusive development spurred a simple living agrarian community into dreaming big. A dream to see their progenies slip into strip suits, talk in accented English and have it as good as it gets. Many of them lived these dreams, seeing their

"Our government is conscious about technology and its commitment on this account is second to none. As against the six polytechnics and only a single engineering college in 1966 when the state came into being, currently we have 489 institutes imparting professional education. Today the ratio of the availability of professional and vocational seats to the total population in Haryana is one of the highest in the country."

-Bhupinder Singh Hooda
Chief Minister



sons and daughters lining up for white-collar jobs, hitherto the preserve of their better-educated urban brethren.

In a state where industrial development has taken a leap, the political leadership sensed the need for trained manpower and embarked upon the task. Technically and professionally, trained manpower remains a significant component enhancing the quality of human

resources for socio-economic development and infrastructure building in the state.

The Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, says, "Our government is conscious of this fact and its commitment on this account is second to none. As against the six polytechnics and only a single engineering college in 1966 when the state came into being, currently we have 489 institutes imparting



Learning new skills

"As a student of technology and management, I value these disciplines and fully understand their importance in creating professionals urgently required in the country. In and outside Parliament, I have been trying hard to get first-rate professional and technical institutes in Haryana. We have added many institutes and universities, which are turning thousands of trained personnel every year. When I see these satisfied young men and women on these campuses, my heart is filled with contentment."

-Deepender Hooda,
Rohtak MP



professional education. We have two technical universities in the government sector and three in the private sector. We are setting up first-rate management institutes and IITs besides a medical university and an all-women medical college. We have 108 ITIs, including 31 exclusively for women, and seven training centres for technical teachers. Today the ratio of the availability of professional and vocational seats to the total population in Haryana is one of the highest in the country."

INSTITUTES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE - IIM, IIIT AND CIPET

An Indian Institute of Management

is being set up at Rohtak. The Haryana government has identified 213 acres of land at Garnawati and offered it to the Centre. The admissions are to be made at the temporary campus at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, from the next academic session.

The Centre has agreed in principle to set up the Indian Institute of Information Technology in Haryana. For this, the land has been identified at Kilord village in Sonapat, and the final word from the Ministry of Human Resource Development is expected any time.

The government has approved setting up of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology in

Haryana, the foundation stone of which has been laid at Murthal. The state government will bear Rs 10.5 crore of the cost. The temporary campus is already operational in Panipat.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN PRIVATE DOMAIN

The capacity building in technical education moved into private domain with the government opening up the turf for private players like MMU, Mullana, Lingayas University and Manav Rachna University.

In Haryana, three deemed universities -- MM University, Mullana, Ambala; Lingayas University, Faridabad; and Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad -- have been established under the UGC Act. The government, however, has been relentlessly demanding quality. Insistence has been on rigorous intake as well as a high standard of teaching in these portals of learning. While private players have been extended the necessary space to self-regulate, the government has put mechanism in place to ensure fair play, lest they should turn into degree shops.

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

Chhotu Ram State College of Engineering, Murthal, was upgraded in 2006 to Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology

Kalpna Chawla Polytechnic Institute, Ambala City



with a view to providing a greater autonomy. Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar, was upgraded to Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology with a view to introducing more innovative and research-oriented science and technology programmes.

AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

Under the state government's policy of granting autonomy to better-performing institutes, the YMCA Institute of Engineering, Faridabad, along with two private engineering colleges are now autonomous. The other autonomous institutes are ITM, Gurgaon, affiliated to MDU Rohtak, and NC College of Engineering, Israna, affiliated to Kurukshetra University.

The government has upgraded the YMCA Institute of Engineering, Faridabad, to a teaching-cum-affiliating university level for science and technology. The government has approved making DBCR University of Science and Technology, Murthal, and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, as affiliating universities, says Technical Education Secretary P K Gupta.

FOCUS ON QUALITY

Modern world industrial culture wants high quality products. This is possible if we have quality education. The government is not compromising as far as providing quality in these institutes is concerned, says Technical Education Director M P Gupta, adding that it has introduced credit-based system in the government engineering colleges, has notified a students' charter and effected inter-se grading of all institutes.

Besides, it has made quality certification mandatory in addition to making the curriculum and academic calendar of all state universities uniform.

POLYTECHNICS

Between 2000 and 2005, only two government polytechnics were set up. Up to 2005, there were only 15 government polytechnics. From 2006 onwards, 10 new government polytechnics were made functional.

ENHANCED BUDGET ALLOCATION

Chief Secretary Dharam Veer says the plan budget of the department which was a meagre Rs 29 crore in 2004-05 has increased to Rs 315 crore for the



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The Haryana government has started various social welfare schemes to attract students to technical courses.

Incentives for girls:

For girls, there is a 25 per cent reservation in admission; and a cash prize of Rs 5,100 is given to every girl topper. There is also an exemption of tuition fees in the government and aided polytechnics, which has resulted in an increase in the intake of girls in these institutes from 16 to 29 per cent.

Reservation for minorities:

There is 50 per cent reservation at Government Polytechnic, Uttawar, for the candidates of the Mewat region. Moreover, the intake of students in this institute has been increased from 265 to 600. The decision has resulted in more and more students from the minorities enrolling themselves at the institute.

Reimbursement of tuition fees to SC Students:

For Scheduled Castes, there is a reimbursement of tuition fees besides imparting pre-admission coaching to them. As many as 6,000 candidates have been trained for the 2009 AIEEE and

DET.

Reservation for physically-handicapped: For the benefit of the physically-handicapped candidates, there is a reservation of 75 seats for people with disability at Government Polytechnic, Hisar, BPS Polytechnic for Women, Khanpur, and Government Polytechnic, Sirsa. It is over and above the one per cent reservation.

Concession to Kashmiri migrants: The government is also concerned about the Kashmiri migrants as there is a reservation of one seat in each branch of all the institutes besides a 50 per cent concession in tuition fees.

Reservation for rural youth: For the rural youth, one seat is reserved in each branch of engineering in diploma and degree courses in all government institutes.

Awards to meritorious students: For economically-weaker section students and meritorious candidates, scholarships amounting to Rs 414.5 lakh were provided by the Haryana State Counselling Society in 2008-09. As many as 917 candidates have benefited from it. Also, the tuition fees waiver scheme of the AICTE has been implemented.



Creating skilled manpower

current year. Largescale construction work, including the new teaching blocks, hostels and laboratories worth Rs 250 crore, has been sanctioned and the sanction for other works worth Rs 150 crore is in the pipeline. The Chief Minister has agreed to provide additional funds of Rs 50 crore to the department. Also, a loan of Rs 1,321.8 lakh has been sanctioned by the National Capital Regional Planning Board for the establishment of the Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Government

FOUR STATE-OF-THE-ART INSTITUTES

State Institute of Fashion and Design, State Institute of Film and Television, State Institute of Fine Arts and State Institute of Professional Studies are being established at Rohtak. Could it be imagined five years back?

Polytechnic at Sampla.

SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES

The government has taken a solid affirmative action to see that the underprivileged do not miss the party, says Technical Education Minister A C Chaudhary. Among the classes benefiting from the reservation and scholarships are girls, minorities, scheduled castes, physically handicapped, Kashmiri migrants, rural youth and economically-weaker

Three deemed universities have been set up in the state under the UGC Act. A private sector investment of Rs 400 crore has been made in the government



Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad



Lingayas University, Faridabad

Modern world industrial culture wants high quality products. We are not compromising as far as providing quality in these institutes is concerned. The government has introduced credit-based system in the government engineering colleges, has notified a students' charter and effected inter-se grading of all institutes.

-M P Gupta
Technical Education Director

sections. The icing on the cake, however, is the government's admiration for its achievers. In a first-of-its-kind gesture, the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, feted talented students of the state at his official residence, sending across a powerful message that the government's inclusive concerns notwithstanding, those breaking the glass ceiling on their own will continue to occupy a pride of place.

The juggernaut rolls on with a government determined to take things to the next level. The young MP from Rohtak, Mr Deepender Hooda's persistence has brought the IIM to Rohtak. The Rajiv Gandhi Education City at Sonapat is attracting the attention of global players in the field of technical education. The diverse industrial base of the state is finding reflection in a number of areas in which top-class institutes are coming up - plastic engineering, information technology, fashion and design, film and television, fine arts, to name a few. ■

INCENTIVES IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Haryana is offering 1.02 lakh seats in technical education institutes.
- 25 per cent of seats reserved for girls in technical institutes.
- 28 more industrial training institutes coming up in the next three years.
- Tool kits and books worth Rs 1,000 are given free of cost to all girls studying in ITIs.
- To improve training at 37 ITIs, MoUs have been signed with private companies.
- All government polytechnics offer full fee exemption for girls.
- The Dakshta Vikas Scheme introduced for school drop-outs.
- The state offers exemption in tuition fees and free coaching for entrance examination to the SC students.
- Online counselling has been introduced for admission to all diploma and degree courses.
- Double shift has been introduced in four polytechnics in 2007-08 and five polytechnics in 2008-09.
- The tuition fees of Kashmiri migrant students exempted by 50 per cent and one seat has been reserved for them in each technical institute.
- The state government gives cash reward of Rs 10,000 to students who attain first 10 positions in the national-level exams, like IIT, AIEEE, CAT and MAT.
- An Indian Institute of Management is being set up at Rohtak on 165 acres.
- Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Science and Technology University has been set up at Murthal.
- Haryana School of Business has started functioning at Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar.
- A reservation of 30 per cent has been made for girls in industrial training institutes.
- Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar, has been upgraded to Guru Jambheshwar Science and Technology University.

Investment of Rs 5,000 crore in technical education has been crystallised under the present government. Government sector. National institutes like IIM, IIIT and CIPET are being set up

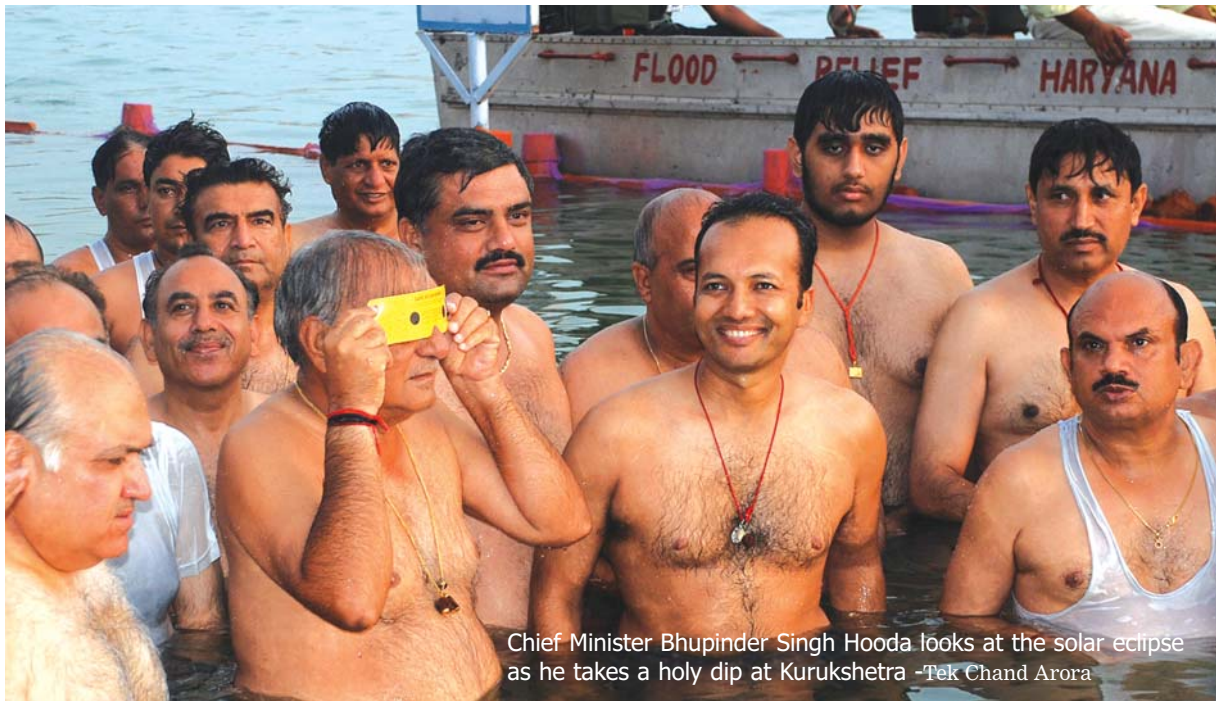


MM University, Mullana

SOLAR Eclipse

Holy dip in Kurukshetra, July 22, 2009

PHOTOS: Randeep Singh



Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda looks at the solar eclipse as he takes a holy dip at Kurukshetra - Tek Chand Arora



Facelift for a sadhu







Siesta time under the watchful eyes



Holy fires during the solar eclipse



Holy dip to wash sins

HERBAL PARKS: New tourist centres



Rajiv Kapur

In view of the popularity of the herbal products and their export potential in recent years, the Haryana government is promoting the medicinal plants in a big way. When the Bhupinder Singh Hooda government came to power, there was only a single herbal park in the state -- at Chuharpur village in Yamunanagar district. The government took an initiative to set up herbal parks in every district to generate awareness about the traditional Indian system of medicine.

These parks not only help in conservation and research, maintaining a sustainable resource base and popularising herbal plants among farmers but also in the diversification of agriculture by promoting cultivation of medicinal plants. They also assist in reviving the interest of the youth and student community in the country's rich biodiversity and medicinal plant resources.

So far, 24 herbal parks, one in each district, have been set up at a cost of Rs 9.6 crore. Two more, Thapli Herbal

Park at Panchkula and Khanpur Kalan Herbal Park at Sonipat, are also in the pipeline. The cultivation of medicinal plants outside the forest areas has a tremendous scope as it helps in bringing about the economic development of the state.

A Rs 60-lakh herbal park was recently built at Tosham in Bhiwani district in memory of late Chaudhary Surender Singh. Another, Jamun Vatika, has been set up at Seevan in Kaithal. It is spread over an area of 25 acres and cost Rs 50 lakh. The park will be expanded to over 100 acres in the near future.

Another park, Kapur Vatika, set up at Mallah in Panchkula district and spread over an area of 15 acres has been developed at a cost of Rs 64 lakh. The park is situated in the Bir Shikargaha forest area on the Pinjore-Mallah road, 10 km from the Kalka-Shimla highway. As many as 103 varieties of medicinal plants have been planted here.

The earliest park at Chuharpur in Yamunanagar district is now being developed as a tourist spot. The park spread over an area of 184 acres has 300 species of medicinal trees, herbs,

shrubs and climbers. It is being developed as a tourist centre with the construction of log huts, a meeting hall, an exhibition hall and a dining hall for attracting tourists and taking them close to nature.

Since the park spreads over a large area, to facilitate tourists, a demonstrative herbal garden has been developed near the entrance, which displays about 200 varieties of medicinal plants available in the park. The description of each plant has been prominently displayed.

A poly-house has also been set up in the garden to help prepare planting material and establish a medicinal plants resource base for propagation and distribution to farmers. A greenhouse has also been set up for taking care of the tender plants before plantation.

A small bamboo cottage built in the park serves as an information centre for the visitors. The bamboo has been used as building material as it blends well with the surroundings, giving the ambience of a jungle. Farmer training camps are also organised regularly here to acquaint the farmers with the latest breakthroughs in forestry. They are also briefed about the growth and utility of herbal plants.

A lake has also been dug parallel to the greenhouse which is fed by the Western Yamuna Canal to add to the scenic beauty of the park. To lure children to the place, a park has been developed for them. Educating children by providing them a glimpse of the valuable medicinal plants is the cherished goal of the Forest Department, as it helps acquaint them with the importance of conserving the flora and fauna right from the childhood. The objective of developing these parks is to conserve the medicinal plants, develop a gene pool of indigenous and exotic plant species, popularise cultivation of Indian medicinal and aromatic plants and study and research them.

The Shivalik ranges in Haryana have a rich variety of medicinal plants. In view of the increasing demand for these plants, both nationally and internationally, steps are being taken to commercialise the potential of the medicinal resource wealth in the state.

India for ages has been using wild bushes and aromatic plants for treating the masses. Our country being the birthplace of ayurveda has been using

this system of medicine for healthcare. The indigenous system thrives on naturally-occurring floral diversity, collectively referred to as medicinal plants. Over 7,000 species of plants are used by 4,635 ethnic communities in the country. One third of these species are trees and an equal number are herbs, including grass. The remaining one third comprise shrubs and climbers.

History shows that the ayurveda system survived the onslaught of the western modes of medicine during the British rule. Moreover, the recent concern about the side-effects of allopathy has resulted in an increase in the use of alternative systems of medicine the world over. Consequently, the global interest in ayurveda has revived.

The growing demand for herbal products in the recent past has led to a manifold increase in the trade of medicinal plants in the country. Estimates show that there is Rs 5.5 billion worth of annual trading of these plants in India while the annual world trade is reported to be over US \$ 60 billion. India has only 0.5 per cent share in the global export market of medicinal plants. The rising global interest poses a great threat to the ayurvedic system of medicine as the naturally healing plants are ruthlessly being over-extracted to meet the growing demand. It has led to the extinction of a few species and many others will soon meet the same fate.

The medicinal plant resources of the region have also shrunk following the construction of new roads and other developmental activity. It has also resulted in a loss of forest cover and associated bio-diversity. Traders resort to destructive and unscientific methods of extraction. The increased biotic pressure and ignorance among

the collectors about the natural regeneration requirements for sustained productivity of these species have also contributed to depletion of the resource base.

Forests in Haryana are mainly distributed in the north-eastern and south-eastern districts. There are three main forest types -- tropical dry deciduous in the eastern part, tropical moist deciduous in the Shivalik region and the tropical thorn forests in the western part. The cultivation of medicinal plants will not only improve the financial condition of the farmers, but will also check the eroding quality of the depleting soil and natural resources. Its farming will help bring a change in the cultivation practices, reduce pesticide contamination and restore nutrient-cycling. The overall effect will be on the rehabilitation of the degraded eco-system.

The increased national and global demand for various medicinal plants has made it essential to augment the existing resources by efficient management of the forest area through enrichment plantation of these species besides growing them under agro-forests and pure commercial cropping systems.

The Haryana Forest Department has started the Vanaspati Van project in Panchkula district. Under this, the enrichment plantation of the forest areas has been done through the introduction of medicinal plant species. The project aims at re-stocking of the forest area at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore under a project of the Department of Indian System of Medicine, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The largescale plantation of medicinal plants under the project will go a long way in enriching the medicinal resource base in the state and its sustained supply.

Keeping in view the importance of herbal plants, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted the National Medicinal Plants Board to co-ordinate in all matters relating to the development and sustainable use of medicinal plants, including its marketing. The Board has identified 32 important species of herbs of economic importance for propagation. Of these, 22 are being cultivated in Haryana. These are amla, ashok, ashwagandha, bael, bhumi amlaki, brahmi, chirata, giloe, gudmar, guggal, isabgol, kalihari, kalmegh, makoy, mulethi, pashan bheda, pippali, safed musali, sarpagandha, senna, shatavari and tulsi.

On the pattern of the national board, Haryana has also constituted the State Medicinal Plant Board to co-ordinate the efforts of all stakeholders in the propagation and development of the plants of medicinal value. The State Forest Department also raises medicinal plants for distribution among the farmers.

The lack of awareness among the rural masses about the economic value of the medicinal plants is a major reason for the wastage of the vast resources available on the non-forest land in the Shivaliks. There is a need to take appropriate steps in educating the rural masses on the prospects of collection, cultivation, value addition, economics and marketing of these plants.

Some of the important plants grown in the parks are ashwagandha, sarpagandha, vach, brahmi, chitrak, safed musali, shatavari, isabgol, tulsi, pippali, makoy, bhumi amalki, gwarpatha, harad, bahera, amla, bael, rudraksh, kalihari, patharchur, lemon grass, liquorice, jatroph, palmarosa and haldi. ■





Hirday Kaushal

Nature in all its myriad forms is fascinating. Seed and water, two of the nature's greatest creations, have been part of my existence since childhood. I learnt to garden and swim at a young age and have since been a regular. These activities have strengthened the bond among water, plant, seed and me and have helped me study the underwater life from close quarters.

Now as a sculptor in Haryana, this relationship of water, seed and self reflects in my work, the spontaneous registration in my mind of the forms that have caught my attention and their taking shape in my work.

Nature is the source of inspiration for every artist and it is the ultimate form-giver. I think abstraction is an important part of nature; the most fundamental aspect of organic abstraction is its being connected to nature. Form is highly spiritual and cannot exist without a materialistic support. Form poses a problem which



Jean Arp

Organic forms in



appeals to the utmost resources of our intelligence and affords the means to charm our sensibilities.

Organic abstraction assumes various stages in its formation and growth. Some sculptors offered their own explanation for vitalism as a philosophical handle when pondering organic abstraction. Jean Arp's biomorphism immediately comes to mind. He believed art is a fruit that grows in man like a fruit on a plant or a child in the womb. Arp's search for ways to suggest nature's complexities and underlying unity began as early as 1915. He investigated the characteristics of natural forms by studying the branches of trees, sprouted seeds, roots, grass blades and stones.

Contemporary abstract sculptors continued to interact with nature on various levels -- physical, psychological and philosophical. Richard Long said, "The source of my

work is nature. I use my ideas of time and movement with material to express the whole view of my art. I hope to make images which produce resonance in the imagination which marks the earth and the mind and my works have become a simple metaphor of life."

No wonder nature continues to infuse the works of many sculptors. The complex system that has silently withstood the unsettling transformations of our technological age, nature has come to signify an excellent condition. The word organic has a comforting inference as it implies a condition that is healthy, pure and grounded. It also signifies life within a work where perception is jockeyed by an endless collision of fleeting impressions, where continuity is superseded by uncertainty, and the creation of sculpture that confirms our fundamental connection to nature is

contemporary sculpture



A bronze and wood sculpture by the author

not only inevitable but consoling. When we say a great sculpture has power, vitality, scale, poise, form and beauty, we are not speaking of physical attributes. Vitality is not a physical or organic attribute to sculpture; it is its spiritual inner life.

Only the bravest or the most foolish scientist made a projection about the actual basis of life. Yet with the development of atomic physics, the relationship between the states of matter comes more clearly into view.

The most important discovery was that matter -- both organic and inorganic -- constituted a continuum and could be analysed as a series of connected energy states. From then on, the meaning of machine gradually changed. Social philosopher Werner Sombart's earlier idea, that the drive of the technology world eventually displaces the organic or living beings of society, insisted that the real destiny of machine was to merge itself with natural organism.

The term organic relates to living things and encompasses a wide range of natural motifs that derive from or imply internal and external aspect of the human body, landscape, biological and botanical system in a perpetual state of growth and decay. In tracing the historical conclusions of organic abstraction, it would be misleading to impose narrow stylistic criteria based on formal consideration alone. Compare an

amorphous blob with a perfect sphere. Though strikingly different, the forms are topological equivalents and both issued by nature. A concretion by Jean Arp is just as organic as one of Richard Long's circles conceived within the landscape while the work of Constantine Brancusi offers a paradigm that unites organic and geometric principles.

The crucial problem facing modern sculptors was to make a work which was harmonious and perfectly balanced, and to get results from the marriage of material and space by mixing the real with the imaginary forms, obtained forms, established points, and perfecting them and making them inseparable. A similar view was expressed by Henry Moore. "The understanding of three-dimensional form involves all points of view about form, space, interior and exterior. They are all one and mixed up with the human being with one's own body and how one thinks about everything."

It is evident from the works of a few sculptors in India like Nagi Patel, Ravinder Reddy, Brij Mohan Sharma, Balan Nambiar. All of them work on natural forms. Patel works in stone inspired by forms of sprouted seeds, leaves and agriculture forms. In the early 1980s,

Reddy worked in the medium of fibre glairs, basing his work on the forms of snail shell and seeds.

Reddy's advice to me when I met him to talk about the dissection was that I learn the process in nature by observing it in depth. The advice made me think and to an extent changed my attitude towards life as a sculptor. I now look up to nature, its forms and the organic and inorganic elements for sustenance. ■

The writer is Art Officer Sculpture with the DIPR Haryana



A stone and aluminium sculpture by the author



A sandstone sculpture by the author



Excellence is their buzz word

RECOGNISING Merit

RAJIV KAPUR

All those days of burning the proverbial midnight oil were past and it was time to savour the success. No doubt the successful students were seen grinning from ear to ear as they recently assembled at the residence of Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. It was time to honour them for their outstanding achievements in academics and competitive exams. And the fact that the state government was formally doing it for the first time made the occasion all the more memorable.

The Chief Minister conferred awards and cash prizes on 131 meritorious students of the state at the First Haryana Pratibha Samman Samaroh for excellence in education.

At the function which was largely attended, Hooda complimented the students, parents and teachers for bringing laurels to the state. He asked them to "have faith in them as great convictions led to great deeds". He hoped the other students would also take a leaf out of the book of these

students and strive for excellence.

He underlined education as a prerequisite for all the development taking place worldwide. The countries that did not emphasise on education in this age of globalisation would be left behind, he said.

The Chief Minister said the government was making efforts to provide education to all children so that the state could be a leader in education too. He said the government had decided to provide free books to the students of Classes IX to XII in government schools from the next year, which would benefit about four lakh students and cost the exchequer Rs 13 crore annually. Earlier, the facility was confined to the students till Class VIII.

The Chief Minister said that with the advancement in communication, the world had shrunk and one could know the happenings around the world in no time. He asked these students to become the brand ambassadors of the state and bring it laurels, no matter wherever they worked.

The Chief Minister said he felt honoured in giving awards to the

outstanding students. He said though emphasis was being laid on the development of infrastructure to improve the quality of life, they were also not neglecting the health and education sectors for the bright future of the state.

He said efforts were being made to ensure that no child remained illiterate. Therefore, a Rs 500-crore incentive-based scheme had been introduced to encourage the poor students to receive education and check the drop-out rate. Under this scheme, scholarships were being provided to poor students, he added.

Hooda said a number of prominent institutes in the fields of technology, health, management and education were being set up. The Rajiv Gandhi Education City was fast coming up in Sonipat, where foreign universities were likely to set up units. One fourth of the seats at the City would be reserved for the students from Haryana. There would also be a provision of full and partial fee concessions for the bright students who could not afford higher education at prominent institutes.

Education Minister Mange Ram Gupta underlined the role of education in eradicating illiteracy and developing the human personality. He

appreciated the innovative schemes being implemented by the government. He hoped the students would no more have to go abroad for higher education.

Chief Secretary Dharamvir said the profiles of the award-winners made one thing pretty clear that cracking the Civil Services exam was no longer the domain of those coming from cities, but those from villages and towns also excelled in it. He hoped the zeal and enthusiasm of the students would continue in future.

It was also announced that the students who had excelled in the chartered accountancy and other such exams would also be honoured soon.

Those who were honoured included the students who had excelled in the Civil Services, CAT, IIT, AIIMS, AIPMT, AIEEE, GATE and IES exams besides those who had performed well in the science olympiads.

The students excelling in the science, humanities and commerce streams in Classes VIII, X and XII under the Haryana Board of School Education were honoured. So were those who had done well in the Class X and XII exams

of the CBSE and ICSE.

The Chief Minister gave away a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh to Nitin Jain of Faridabad who had won the gold medal and was declared best in the practical competition at the Second International Olympiad in Astronomy

and Astrophysics. He also gave Rs 11,000 in cash to Shobhit Goel for participation in the Junior National Orientation-cum-Selection Camp of the Science Olympiad organised by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai. ■



Taking home memories



Blessings for the bright

SNAPSHOTS ON HARYANA

The Tribune

Farmers to retain land even if they fail to repay loans

CHANDIGARH: It was a day for farmers in the Haryana Assembly. Now the farmers in the state will not be deprived of their land if they failed to repay loans to the cooperative institutions. This has been ensured under the provisions of the Haryana Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which was passed by the House by a voice vote. The Bill seeks to amend the Haryana Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, to provide for the leasing of agricultural land so that the loan amount can be paid off without selling the land. Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda earlier made an announcement to this effect. The Bill seeks to implement this announcement. The CM announced a reduction in the interest rates on loans advanced by the cooperative banks. Now the interest on short-term crop loans will be 4 per cent. Earlier, this rate was reduced from 11 per cent to 7 per cent. This is the lowest rate of interest on loans to the agricultural sector in the country. This would benefit about 8.5 lakh farmers to the tune of Rs 41 crore. Hooda also announced an additional interest subsidy of 3 per cent on loan being given by the cooperative banks to petty shopkeepers and rural artisans. With this, the effective rate of interest would come down from 11 to 13 per cent to 8 to 10 per cent. The decision would benefit 75,000 people to the tune of Rs 2 crore. The cooperative banks give a loan up to Rs 25,000 to petty shopkeepers and rural artisans and up to Rs 3,500 to landless labourers. Announcing a relief to those farmers, who return their loans regularly, Hooda said that in case of long-term loans, an additional subsidy of 3 per cent would also be given to such loanees. This incentive would be admissible on agricultural and non-agricultural loans. Now, this loan would be given at 8.5 per cent interest. It would benefit 1.5 lakh farmers to the tune of Rs 37 crore.

THE HINDU

Drip irrigation system subsidy hiked

CHANDIGARH: Farmers in Haryana will now get 90 per cent grant on drip and fountain irrigation systems. Earlier, 50 per cent grant was given to the farmers on this system of irrigation. The grant has been increased to popularise micro-irrigation in the state.

Drip and fountain irrigation is beneficial for the farmers as it saves water up to 70 per cent, electricity/diesel up to 30 per cent and fertiliser up to 65 per cent and increases production by up to 50 per cent.

Hindustan Times

Farm loan recovery down 6 pc – farmers hope for another waiver plan

CHANDIGARH: The recovery of agricultural loans is down by 6 per cent in Haryana, says Punjab National Bank executive director Nagesh Pydah.

The dip can be attributed to the wait and watch policy being adopted by farmers in the hope of another loan waiver in the post-election scenario. Pydah says the overall recovery position has declined from 76 per cent in March 2008 to 72 per cent in the corresponding period of 2009. He also blamed the impact of the global slowdown for this decline.

The PNB executive director said the bank aimed to achieve a business growth of 19 per cent in deposits and 22 per cent in credit this year. The total deposit of the banks in the state has increased from Rs 70,919 crore in March 2008 to Rs 82,875 crore in the corresponding period of 2009, showing a growth of 17 per cent. Advances have also increased from Rs 48,547 crore to Rs 64,738 crore, indicating a growth of 33.5 per cent.

The Tribune

Rohtak to have national biotech institute

ROHTAK: The state government has given its nod for setting up a national biotechnology institute in the district. It will be the first institute of its kind in the state and the fourth in the country. The institute will come up at Garnavathi village, about 15 km from here, where the government has already sanctioned the starting up of a new Indian Institute of Management.

THE HINDU

Haryana launches 'Sab Padhen, Aage Badhen'



CHANDIGARH: Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda launched a fortnight-long state-wide education campaign, 'Sab Padhen, Aage Badhen'. He said the aim was to ensure that all children in the age group of six to 14 went to school, the drop-outs came back and that no child in the state was deprived of education for want of resources.

The state would ensure that all children get education, at least up to Class XII, he added. Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Education, Rajan Gupta said there were about two lakh drop-out children in the age group of six to 14 who would be brought back to school.

Hindustan Times

Rs 326-cr proposal for Mewat canal

CHANDIGARH: Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said that a proposal to construct the Mewat canal at a cost of Rs 326 crore has been forwarded to the Centre for approval.

The Chief Minister announced this after laying the foundation stone of a medical college at Nalhar village in Mewat district. The college will be set up at a cost of Rs 700 crore. "The Mewat area is being developed on priority and in a systematic manner," he said. Hooda also laid the foundation stone of a Mini-Secretariat along the Nuh-Palwal road. It would come up over 46 acres at a cost of Rs 33 crore. He said its building would be completed within two years and all government offices would come under one roof.

Hindustan Times

Rs 650 cr for six-laning of Rohtak-Panipat Road

CHANDIGARH: Union Minister of State for Road and Transport Mahadev Singh Khandela has said that the 82-km Rohtak-Panipat road will be six-laned at a cost of Rs 650 crore. Khandela, who was addressing officers at Rohtak, said three over-bridges would also be constructed on this road. Besides, the Rohtak-Jind road would also be six-laned.

The Minister, who was reviewing the progress of the ongoing work on the Rohtak-Sampla road said the work on the six-lane Rohtak-Delhi road would be completed within the next one year. He maintained that all these projects would be completed under the National Highways Development Project and under the scheme, 63-km bypasses and the six-lane Rohtak-Delhi road would be constructed at a cost of Rs 486 crore.

He maintained that all these projects would be completed under the National Highways Development Project and under the scheme, 63-km bypasses and the six-lane Rohtak-Delhi road would be constructed at a cost of Rs 486 crore.

THE HINDU

Haryana to construct 6,000 rooms for Games

GURGAON: Haryana will construct 6,000 rooms for the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in October next year. This was stated by Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda while interacting with reporters at a function. He said his government had taken a number of steps to boost tourism and had incurred an expenditure of Rs 5,330 crore on developing industrial infrastructure in the state.

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Haryana to use Israeli technology to open 2 farm centres by 2010

CHANDIGARH: Farmers in Haryana can look forward to improving productivity of their fields by using latest technology as well as venture into high value crops by 2010. The state's Horticulture Department has entered into a pact with the Israel government to develop two centres of excellence for fruits and vegetables at Sirsa and Karnal respectively. Once these centres are operational, farmers will be introduced to the latest mechanised farming techniques in the demonstration unit and get training for the same.

According to department officials, the projects will catalyse an investment of around Rs 15.7 crore and will be funded under the National Horticulture Mission.

Hindustan Times

Haryana extends health cover to all BPL families

CHANDIGARH: Haryana has become the first state in the country to extend health insurance cover to all 12.97 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. The scheme offers a cashless and paperless cover under which treatment worth Rs 30,000 per year is offered free of cost to any member of the BPL family in case of injury, disease and ailment that needs hospitalisation.

The Tribune



Randeep Singh Surjewala

Minister announces grants for villages

KAITHAL: As many as 31,000 SC and ST families have been provided drinking water connections in Kaithal district during the tenure of the present government. The government has also spent Rs 117.98 crore on providing potable water in the district as compared to Rs 27.71 crore provided by the previous government during its five-year tenure.

A waterworks at a cost of Rs 18 crore will be constructed at Patti Khot village to augment the water supply to Kaithal town, following which it will be covered by the canal-based water supply. The project will provide an additional 4.5 crore litres of potable water. This was stated by Power and Public Health Minister Randeep Singh Surjewala during a press conference at Manas village.

Dadupur canal inaugurated

YAMUNANAGAR: The 30-year-old demand of farmers of three districts was fulfilled after Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda inaugurated the Dadupur Nalvi canal and released water into it from the Yamuna in Dadupur, 25 km from here.

"The irrigation scheme which costs Rs 267 crore was approved not only to provide water to the farmers for irrigation purposes but also to recharge the groundwater table of the area. The canal water will now benefit the farmers of 225 villages of Yamunanagar, Ambala and Kurukshetra," said Hooda after the inauguration.

Compiled by Ruchi Sharma

INA: A striking force

Dr Rajwanti Mann

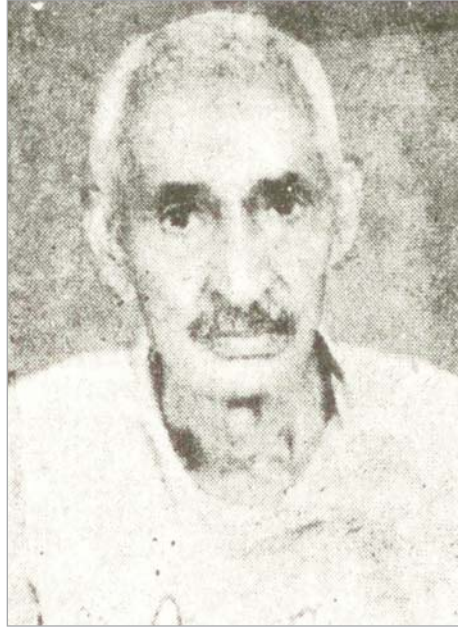
In the June issue of Haryana Review, the role of Haryanvis in the 1857 War of Independence was discussed. In this war, around 24,000 people were killed. The British inflicted severe punishments on the Indians to damp the rising spirit of anti-colonialism.

After the revolt, the Crown took over the charge from the East India Company but it did not make much difference. The conflict of ideas and clash between the forces of imperialism and nationalism marked the later course of events. The revolt shattered the British confidence in Indian troops and they started keeping an eye on them. Moreover, communal groupings such as the Sikh, Rajput, Jat and Bilochi regiments were formed.

The atrocities of the British in suppressing the revolt kept playing on the Indian mind. There were revolts by indigo planters and Santhals, the agrarian riots in the Deccan and the Kuka Movement in Punjab. However, the movements largely were non-violent in character. The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885 and Lala Murlidhar from Ambala participated in its first session. Simultaneously, the Arya Samaj also gained a foothold in Haryana with the efforts of Lala Lajpat Rai, Pandit Baste Ram, Chaudhary Matu Ram, Dr Ramji Lal and Lala Chandu Lal.

During the First World War, the Haryana rural masses took more interest in the war than in the national activities. The people of Haryana helped the government by providing recruits and contributing money and material. Yet the British government paid no attention towards their hardships. Just after the World War, the services of 15,500 soldiers from Haryana were terminated and they were not provided alternate means of livelihood.

The Congress began to gain its footing in 1917-18. Among the feeling of unrest and distrust, the Rowlatt Bill was passed. It shocked the people and



Col Ram Swaroop Yadav



Lt Col Lakshmi Sehgal



Col Dil Sukhman

led to a wave of anger in the country.

During the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the British declared India belligerent without consulting the Congress. Mahatma Gandhi started a satyagraha to

counteract the British propaganda. A large number of people offered themselves for arrest.

The trials of three officers -- Gen Shah Nawaj, Col P K Sehgal and Col Dhillon -- at the Red Fort centred

around the officers and men of the British Indian Army, who after surrender to the Japanese and Germans did not remain as Prisoners of War but formed the Indian National Army. The INA, especially on the Eastern Front, derived its strength

inspired by patriotism. In his words, "I can offer you nothing except hunger, thirst, privation, forced marches and death...but I shall lead you to victory and freedom. It does not matter who among us will live to see India free. It is enough that India shall be free."

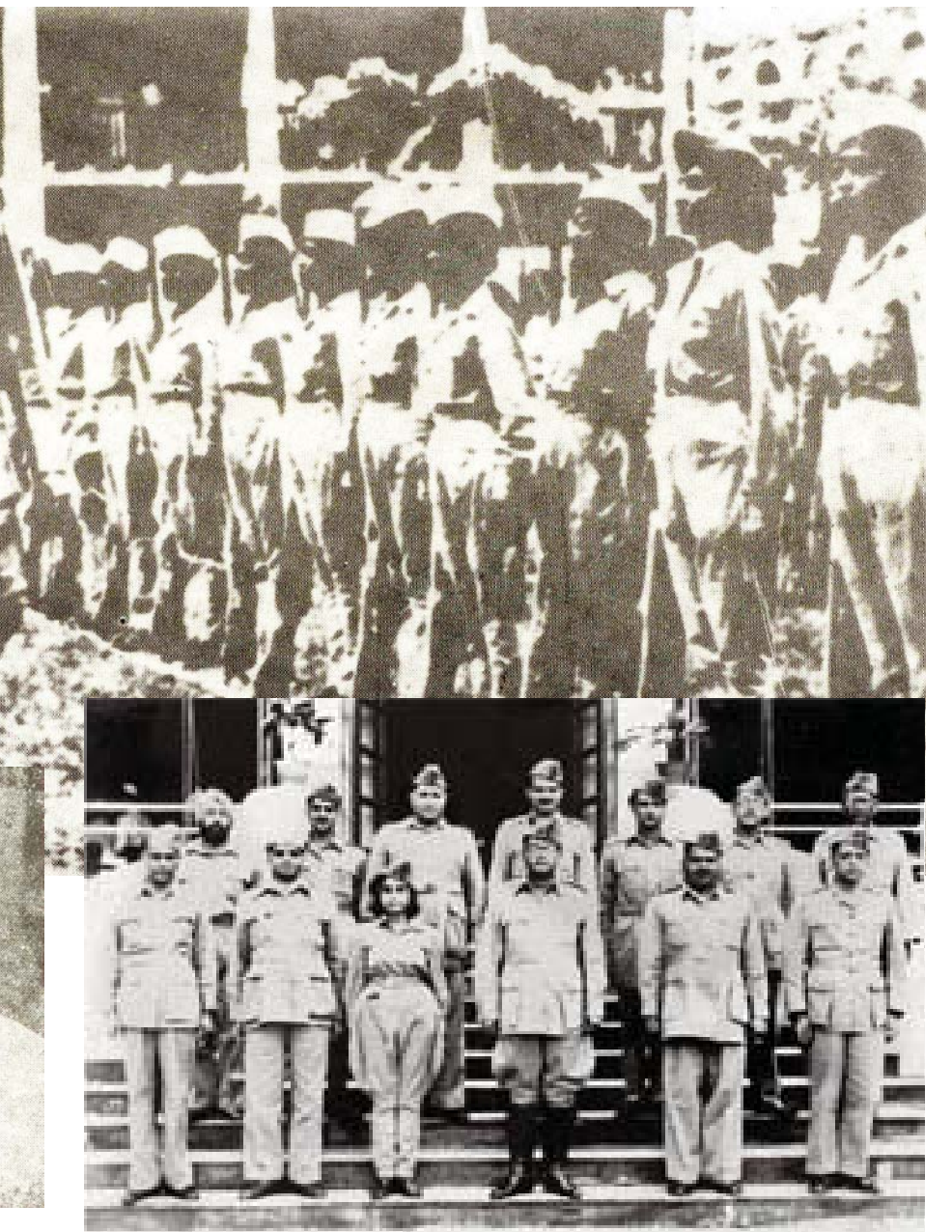
health units, Azad Hind Dal and other civilian corps.

Lt Col Lakshmi recalled her experience in the Sunday Herald, 1946, that women cast off their shackles and came forward to join the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. In numerous instances, the entire family signed up - father and sons joining the INA and mother and daughter the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. To meet the war expenditure, the Netaji's appeal was convincing. His own life was a shining example of sacrifice and suffering for India's freedom. At the conclusion of every meeting, the garlands he received were auctioned, where the Punjabi and Sindhi businessmen outbided one another. The collection of funds was so successful that a bank -- National Bank of Azad Hind -- was started in Rangoon. Besides cash, the bank also contained large quantities of gold. Among the contributors were not only millionaires but even the poor. Doctors contributed medicine, textile merchants gave cloth, tailors their sewing machines, milkmen their cows and women gave their jewellery.

Haryana was in the forefront of the INA recruitments, contributing about 3,000 volunteers of whom 346 laid down their lives while fighting the imperialist forces. Among the prominent INA officers were Col Dil Sukhman, Col Ram Swaroop Yadav, Maj Surajmal, Maj Mehar Chand, Maj Mohammad Hussain, Capt Kanwal Singh and Capt Preet Singh. Maj Balwant Singh, Capt Kanwal Singh Dhankar, Capt Ganeshi Lal and Capt Jeet Ram were bestowed the Sher-e-Hind title.

But despite their efforts, sacrifices and sufferings, the INA had to retreat. Its volunteers were mostly from the British Indian Army that had been disbanded. But in their hearts lingered the hope of India's Independence and the Netaji's words of Dilli Chalo and Jai Hind motivated them. The slogans like Vande Mataram and Jai Hind had a binding force, an anti-communal outlook and an ultimate motivation that permeated the nook and corner of this land that ultimately led to its freedom. It is a token of gratitude to the unsung heroes and martyrs of India's freedom struggle. ■

(The writer is Deputy Director, Department of Archives, Haryana)



and material support from the sympathy, cooperation and goodwill of the Indians inhabiting these areas. Netaji Subhas Chander Bose wanted that the flow of men, material and money be absolutely voluntary and

Consequently, every recruiting centre was besieged by long queues of young men eager to join the training centres. Even those who were rejected on medical grounds sought other avenues and volunteered for field propaganda,

Where kabaddi is a culture

Saurabh Duggal

Chedugudu or hu-tu-tu in south India, hadudu and chu-kit-kit in east India and kabaddi in the north. Whatever may be the name, kabaddi is prevalent in every part of the country and is a sport of the masses. And like the other states, Haryana, too, has a big following of the sport in villages so much so that it has become a part of their culture and heritage.

Though Maharashtra played a pioneering role in bringing the game to the national platform, it's Haryana that has taken the lead in presenting the country as the world power in the sport.

At the Doha Asian Games in 2006, India won its fifth successive gold medal since the inclusion of the sport in the Games in 1990, and half the team was from Haryana. Of the 12-member squad, Ramesh, Suresh, Vikas, Sukhbir and Naveen were from the state. In the last world cup in the sport held in India in 2007, five members of the 12-member gold winning team were from Haryana.

Of late, Haryana has emerged as a force to reckon with in the sport and the men from the state have completely dominated the national circuit.

"In the last 10 to 15 years, I don't remember any national kabaddi team having left the Indian shores without a Haryana player in its ranks," says two-time Asian Games gold medallist Shamsheer Singh, who is an Inspector in Haryana Police.

Shamsheer, who won the Dhyanchand Award for kabaddi, was the captain of the state team as well as of the Haryana Police team between 1994 and 2004. And during that period, he led the team to victory in the 1997 Federation Cup held in Rohtak and then to two successive gold in the 2000 and 2001 Federation Cups. The Haryana men also won the title in the 2002 and 2003 nationals held in Hyderabad and Darbanga respectively.

"Since childhood I had seen the sport being played in our village and like other kids, I also had no other pastime. I picked the sport in 1992 and



Ho kabaddi, kabaddi...

HARYANA MEN IN ASIAN GAMES SQUAD

- 1990:** Ashan Kumar, Krishan Godara and Om Prakash
1994: Surinder Kumar
1998: Ram Mehar, Shamsheer, Rambir
2002: Ram Mehar (captain), Shamsheer, Ramesh, Sundar, Jagdish and Ner Gulia
2006: Ramesh, Suresh, Vikas, Naveen and Sukhbir

Arjuna Awardees:

- 1998:** Ashan Kumar
2002: Ram Mehar
2004: Sundar Singh
2005: Ramesh Kumar

Dhyanchand Award:

- 2007** Shamsheer Singh

Dronacharya Award:

- 2005:** Balwan Singh

was named in the Haryana senior team in 1995. Since then there has been no looking back. Today it is only because of kabaddi that I have everything -- name, fame and money," says Arjuna awardee Ramesh Kumar, who was part of the 2002 Busan and 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Ramesh, who hails from Kirmara village, Hisar, was also inducted into the Haryana Police as an inspector because of his achievements in the sport.

Though the sport is played in almost every part of the state, Sonapat, Rohtak, Panipat, Hisar and Bhiwani dominate it.

The job incentives associated with kabaddi also helped it become popular. Till date, numerous players have got jobs in various government departments, including Haryana Police, ONGC, Railways, Services and CRPF.

"Generally, for village kids, kabaddi is only a pastime and gradually for a few, it becomes their life," says Sundar Singh, who won the Arjuna Award in 2004.

The popularity of the sport in Haryana can be gauged from the fact that the players from the state have even made it to the teams of other states like Gujarat and Rajasthan. The ONGC team is based in Gujarat and there are many players from Haryana who have been employed by it. Similarly, the CISF team is based in Rajasthan.

FOR GIRLS, GLORY STILL FARAWAY

Like men, Haryana women are regularly spotted in the national squad. But unlike men, their strength is not considerable. In the first Asian Women Championship held in Hyderabad in 2006, there were only two Haryana players – Raj Bala and Jagriti – in the squad. In 2007 Asian Championship held in Iran, there were again two – Sunita Dhaka and Parmila. And last year in the Third Asian Championship, Parmila was the only player from the state who made it to the national squad.

HARYANA WOMEN IN ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD

- 1st Asian Championship, Hyderabad, 2006: Raj Bala and Jagriti
- 2nd Asian Championship, Iran, 2007: Sunita Dhaka and Parmila
- 3rd Asian Championship, Chennai, 2008: Parmila

“The Haryana girls are doing pretty well but you can’t compare it with the men’s achievements. For the last five to six years, Haryana’s standing in the women section is improving and now with the opening of job avenues for women players, the state’s standing at the national circuit will improve,” says Parmila, employed with the Haryana Police.

Parmila, who hails from Gadi Sasana village in Sonipat, is one of the country’s best raiders.

“For the last couple of years, the Haryana girls are doing pretty well at the national circuit. Our girls’ teams have produced good results at the sub-junior and junior levels. We are yet to win a national medal in the senior category but soon we will achieve this,” says Haryana Sports Department kabaddi coach Sharmila. She is posted at the Maharani Kishori College, Rohtak. “The reason behind our indifferent showing at the senior level is that earlier in Haryana, parents didn’t allow their daughters to be part of the competitive sports after the age of 18; also, there were no job incentives for them. But now with the job opportunities coming up for girls in the Haryana Police and Railways, and the gradual change in the mindset of the parents towards their girl children, we will definitely get medals in the senior section,” she adds.

International player Sunita Dhaka of Rohtak has recently been appointed the Sub-Inspector in the Haryana Police and this has motivated many girls to take kabaddi as a career.

CURRENT SCENARIO: KABADDI TAKES A BACKSEAT:

From the mid 1990s to 2005-06, Haryana had emerged as a force to be reckoned with. But all is not hunky dory with the state kabaddi at present. The Haryana Police, which has played a pivotal role in the rise of kabaddi in

the state, are unable to do much following a legal tussle over the association issue. The government is trying hard to address the problem and restore the sport to its pristine glory.

MAJOR NAMES:

Krishan Kumar Hooda (45): He is one of the main forces behind the success of Haryana as a major kabaddi hub of the country. He is the one who initiated kabaddi to the Haryana Police. He was also the coach of the Haryana team from 1988 to 2002 and helped the state team get the gold medal for the first time in the 2002 National Championship. He coached several international players, including Asian Games medallist Shamsher and Ramesh Kumar. He was also associated with the national squad from 1988 to 2002.



Ashan Kumar (48): Arjuna Awardee 1998: Ashan Kumar was the first Arjuna awardee in kabaddi from the state. The former captain of the Indian team hails from Bhera village, Bhiwani. Ashan was vice-captain of the Indian team in the 1990 Asian Games and was its coach in the 1998 Asian Games. He was also the captain of the Services team for nine years and helped the team in winning six gold medals.



Ramesh Kumar (33): Arjuna Award, 2005: The Inspector in the Haryana Police hails from Kirmara village, Hisar. Ramesh represented India in three SAF Games, three Asian Championships, two Asian Games and a world cup. He was captain of the Indian team for three years between



2004 and 2006.

Sundar Singh (28): Arjuna Award, 2005. The 28-year-old kabaddi player belongs to Lakhna Majra village in Rohtak. He was part of the Indian team that won the gold at the inaugural world cup in Mumbai in 2004. He’s also a 2002 Busan Asian Games gold-medallist.



Ram Mehar (35): Arjuna Award, 2002: The two-time Asian gold-medallist hails from Sukhpura village in Bhiwani. He was part of the Indian team in the 1998 Asian Games and captained the winning squad in 2002 Asian Games.



Shamsher (36): Dhyanchand Award: 2007: The two-time Asian gold medallist hails from Kathura village in Sonipat. In the 1998 and 2002 Asian Games, he was part of the gold medal winning squad. The Inspector in the Haryana Police is posted at Madhuban.



Balwan Singh (49): Dronacharya Awardee, 2005: Balwan Singh hails from Dhundwa village in Kaithal. He was the national coach at the Doha Asian Games, 2006, and currently, he is coaching at the national camp in Bhopal. Singh is employed with the Indian Air Force. ■



The writer is Senior Sports Writer with Hindustan Times, Chandigarh

TOWARDS RECREATION AND EXCELLENCE

O P Singh

The Haryana government has pumped in crores of rupees in building sporting infrastructure. The reach has been deep with stadiums standing tall even in the remotest part of the state. There are already 200 stadiums, 30 multipurpose halls, two synthetic athletics tracks and two hockey astro-turfs. Many more are in the pipeline.

SCHEMES FOR ATHLETES

The Sports Department has initiated a number of schemes aimed at developing athletes. As many as 45 sports nurseries train 815 schoolchildren, costing the state exchequer Rs. 2.7 crore every year. Other government organisations support seven additional nurseries. The medal winners of the recognised tournaments are being lent a helping hand through a scheme costing Rs 70 lakh. The medal winners in various sporting events will be given cash awards worth Rs 2 crore this financial year.

NEED FOR CHANGE

The schemes conceived long ago need a drastic overhauling so that the government can cast its net wide in search of boys and girls capable of emulating the feats of the likes of Vijender Singh. It will fill the gap between what athletes need and what the government schemes offer; services and facilities available and people's knowledge of these; people's aspirations and opportunities to realise them through a career in sports; and how good the players are and how good they need to be. It will optimise the returns in terms of participation and excellence on the investment made in the sporting infrastructure.

CORE

New athlete development



Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda inaugurates a hockey astro turf at Sirsa

programmes will be known as Creating Opportunity for Recreation, Excellence (CORE). It will create an incentive architecture that supports athletes adequately, appropriately and on time. This will make athlete development a shared concern of all stake-holders -- parents, school teachers, coaches, dieticians, sponsors, doctors and other support staff. It aims to make the government's engagement with athletes friendly and productive. It will integrate athlete development programmes across age groups ensuring continuity in training.

CORE will embed the clearly spelt-out exit strategies and set of outcome indicators in the athlete development programme. It will try to reach out with funds and facilities to the athletes in developing stages so that the gap between the potential and performance can be bridged.

STRUCTURE

The government will unveil a multi-level initiative, factoring in athletes' age and their level of accomplishment.

The Level IV will be about raising the awareness and encouraging more and more people to take to sports as recreation or career. The Level III will focus on identifying young ones talented enough to have a career in athletics and fortifying them with training and facilities. At Level II, the medal winners at the senior state and national level will be fast-tracked -- stakes will be raised to enable and spur them to move to the next level. The Level I will be for the Asian, World and Olympic medal winners. The support to them will be total with the government taking care of their training, equipment, travel, medical, insurance and job needs.

LEVEL IV

The government will take steps to bridge the knowledge gap between facilities and opportunities available and people's awareness about these through an aggressive information campaign. It will be like Know Your Coaches, Know Your Playfields, Know Your Sporting Icons/Records and

Know Your Athletic Potential.

Resource centres at district headquarters will conduct and coordinate the effort. Besides mass media, traditional methods like mass contact programmes, streetcorner plays, essays, painting and singing competitions, debates, leaflets, marathons and festivals aimed at publicising the constructive role of sports in personal growth and in state's development will be extensively used. Information kiosks in Hindi and English will be installed at public places, enabling people to know about sports. An interactive website will be created and maintained where people can access sports-related information. The website will also have the facility whereby one can get an idea about one's athletic potential by entering a few basic parameters on strength and endurance. The resource centres will also be equipped to help people know their athletic potential and sports aptitude first-hand. A toll-free help-desk will be maintained to answer people's queries.

LEVEL III

CORE will be the government's flagship athlete support programme.

An open, state-wide talent hunt test will be held every year for children in the age group of 10 to 14 aspiring for a career in sports. Participants will be subjected to a battery of age-appropriate physical and psychological tests aimed at assessing their innate athletic potential and sports aptitude. A database of test scores in the descending order of all participants will be maintained, with a validity of one year. If required, holding of such tests will be outsourced to an agency.

The first 1,000 participants will be given a scholarship of Rs 2,500 per month, besides coaching and kit allowance. The next 1,500 will get a scholarship of Rs 1,000 per month along with coaching and kit allowance. The next 2,000 participants will get Rs 500 every month, with the kit allowance and coaching facilities at the sports centres.

All the participants will have to take age-appropriate tests every year and earn a place in the 4,500 to benefit from the scheme.

The first three schools sending the maximum scholarship-holders with a minimum number of 25 will be supported with a grant of Rs 50 lakh,

Rs 35 lakh and Rs 25 lakh respectively for developing sporting facilities on their premises.

Medal winners at the junior state level will be given a monthly scholarship of Rs 5,000, a kit besides the travel and medical allowance. The scholarship amount for the national and international junior medalists will be Rs 7,500 and Rs 10,000 respectively besides the other benefits. They will have cumulative points depending on the level and number of medals won, which will give them an edge in getting the government jobs.

The parents of the junior medallists, if they are state government employees, will be entitled for a paid leave to accompany their athlete children for a maximum of 30 days in a calendar year.

The scholarship-holders not in the medal reckoning will have the option to move into specially-designed vocational courses at polytechnics aimed at developing technical hands in sports promotion and administration. The successful completion of the training will help them in getting jobs like that of PTIs and coaches in the government and private sectors. They will also have the option of honorary/contractual jobs in the government's sports promotion initiative at the grassroot level.

LEVEL II

Those in medal reckoning at the senior level will be adequately supported so that they can concentrate on upgrading their standard of performance. The monthly stipend for the state, national and international medallists will be Rs 10,000, 15,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively along with other benefits, like a kit besides the travel, medical, insurance and coaching allowance.

They will have to perform regularly to benefit from the programme. A calendar year without a medal will relegate them to Level III. Three years without a medal and they will lose all benefits given to a career athlete. In case of injury, they will have additional six months to end the dry run.

LEVEL I

Olympic qualifiers and World, Commonwealth and Asian Championship winners will be compensated the cost of training,

equipment, travel, insurance and treatment. They will be free to choose coaches, training academies and support staff. The idea is simple: an athlete doing well at the Asian and a higher level will be encouraged and enabled to move to the next level. Those already doing well at the highest level will be supported so that they continue to perform. The parents and coaches of the winners of the Asian, Commonwealth, World and Olympic games will be rewarded with increments and paid holidays, if they are on the state government's rolls. The Level I athlete will have to keep winning to continue in this category. A dry season will relegate him to Level III.

IMPLEMENTATION

A campaign committee under the Sports Director will chalk out strategies to implement the Level IV initiatives aimed at encouraging and enabling people to take to sports as recreation or a career.

The Levels III, II and I athletes will be issued red, blue and green smart cards respectively. The embedded chip on the smart card will contain an exhaustive information profiling the athlete on health, dietary requirements, performance and the benefits given. Through this, the athletes can access the government's athlete support programmes.

The programme office will maintain an exhaustive database on the incentive and support schemes and target beneficiaries. It will enter into an arrangement with banks, coaches, travel agents, kit suppliers, insurance companies and hospitals to ensure that most of the benefits are transferred to the athletes online and at subsidised rates.

A committee of stakeholders -- parents, coaches, dieticians, icon players -- will manage an athlete's career progression. Support schemes for the Level I and II athletes will be funded through the Utkrisht Khiladi Kalyan Kosh to take care of their special needs. Regular training of all associated with the programme will be an important constituent of the programme. A delivery monitoring cell at the sports directorate will carry out a quarterly review of benefits delivered to the target beneficiaries. ■

The writer is Director, Sports, Haryana

REFLECTIONS ON Independence Day

Randeep Wadehra

Liberty is the hardest test that one can inflict on a people. To know how to be free is not given equally to all men and all nations.

Paul Valery, French poet and writer

Yet another Independence Day is being celebrated. India's tryst with destiny has had to negotiate bumpy roads, detours, roadblocks and various other hazards to enter the current fruitful phase. Today India is looked upon as an economic success story with a military muscle to protect its interests – both internally and externally. Its scientific and entrepreneurial genius has started making its presence felt on the international stage. All this could not have come about had India not gained independence and opted for a democratic way of life.

More than celebrating, it is the time to pause and reflect. What exactly does the term 'freedom' mean to us? Is it, to borrow late British poet Hartley Coleridge's expression, a universal licence to be good? Or, is it much more? Traditionally, Indians have been a bit overly good to the world at large. We haven't been merely tolerant towards all visitors but hospitable too. Our all-inclusive culture imbibed the best from the alien cultures without any hint of jingoism and, in return, gave much more. Reticent by nature, we as a nation never usurped the land of others. Traditionally we have been seekers of peace and knowledge. Hence, we were able to open and run such repositories of research and education as gurukuls and sophisticated universities like Texla and Nalanda while people in other parts of the world were still hanging from the trees by their tails –

metaphorically speaking.

The long period of slavery killed our indigenous genius, stunted our socio-economic growth and subverted all such institutions as are vital for the growth of a vibrant polity.

The fundamental rights are considered essential for the development of the personality of every individual and preservation of human dignity. Democracy becomes a farce if civil liberties, like freedom of speech and religion, are not recognised and protected by the state. Since public opinion is a vital input for the sustenance of democracy, the means of formulating public opinion should be secured to the people. For this purpose, the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression and various other freedoms in the form of the fundamental rights, viz the right to equality, right to freedom, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights and the right to constitutional remedies. These intend to ensure the perpetuation and protection of civil liberties for individual as well as common good. Moreover, these are enforceable through courts of law.

Sadly, despite the constitutional guarantees, day in and day out, we witness violation of these rights. Our police remain the archetypal colonial anachronism that looks at the citizenry with a predator's eye. Every day, there are media reports of fake encounters, extortions and the use of third degree by policemen in different parts of the country. Strangely, in spite of the public outcry and recommendations of different police reform commissions, little has been done to rectify the situation.

However, there are other equally serious governance-related issues. Take the example of the country's

public distribution system. It is supposed to provide foodgrains and other essential items at affordable prices to people living below poverty line. Unfortunately, the system has been subverted to such an extent that the intended beneficiaries remain out of the loop. There is a talk of making the right to food a fundamental right. Even if such legislation enters the country's already humongous statute books, how would it be enforced? Already, the various administrative tools and instruments of implementation are in urgent need of a complete overhaul to become effective.

So, must one conclude that there is no hope of deliverance from want, violence and vagaries of law-keepers?

Not really. The relentless media focus is helping in the building up of a strong public opinion in favour of performance. We saw its impact in the last Lok Sabha elections where performers were rewarded and prevaricators and pretenders shown the door. People voted, cutting across ideological and parochial divides. This should spur on the incumbent governments in the states as well as the Centre to get their respective acts together. Already we are seeing the Centre envisaging systemic changes in various fields – be these education, policing, employment generation or general governance. This is a happy augury for our polity. In future election campaigns, there will be more emphasis on competitive performance than on competitive casteism and other forms of sectarianism.

Much has been achieved but much more needs to be done. The day this nation's index of human dignity and happiness reaches optimal levels, India's tryst with destiny will be fruitfully consummated. ■

The writer is a poet and columnist



President Pratibha Patil honours Roshani Devi

A WOMAN with courage makes a majority

Rajiv Kapur

The disturbing childhood memories of a neighbour beating his wife after being drunk had left an indelible mark on the psyche of villager Roshani Devi. And with each passing day, these only steeled her resolve to launch a crusade against the evil.

At last an opportunity to realise this dream presented itself when she was elected the sarpanch of her village, Kothal Khurd in Mahendargarh district. And she lost no time in convening a panchayat

meeting which passed a resolution that liquor would not be sold in the village, neither would it be consumed publicly. She and other village women in co-operation with the Sakshar Mahila Samooh started a campaign against the evil. The efforts of these women bore fruit as the mindset of the villagers changed to such an extent that even licensed liquor vends had to close shop following public resistance.

The tireless efforts of Roshani Devi and her co-workers -- Usha Devi and Tripathi Devi -- received ample recognition recently when they were

felicitated by President Pratibha Patil at a function in New Delhi.

While honouring them, the President said their campaign had shown that the most difficult of challenges could be overcome with courage, dedication and confidence. A number of social evils like dowry system, child marriage, female foeticide and alcoholism could be eradicated with sustained efforts, she added.

Recalling her experiences when she was the Minister of Social Welfare in the Maharashtra government in the early '70s, the President said Maharashtra then had faced a severe drought over a period of three years and the government had started the Employment Guarantee Scheme to help the people. The President during her visits to various districts,

however, had found that about 50 per cent of the money received by the menfolk had been lost on liquor and the families had received only a part of it.

The President said there was a need to carry out a study on the economic cost of the evil social practices prevalent in society. She also asked the NGOs to reach out to the under-privileged sections, especially the women in villages. Empowerment of the most deprived sections was essential for building a more equitable society, she added. The President also complimented the media for bringing out the success stories in the social sector.

Roshani Devi, after accepting the award, said a united effort went a long way in addressing any difficulty, and she took her inspiration from the tiny bees who put in a persistent and united effort in collecting honey. She said that on becoming the sarpanch, she had taken upon herself the gigantic task of ridding the village of the evil. And in achieving this, she even invited the wrath of the villagers and also the vend-owners whose business was affected. And she also took this opportunity to thank her co-workers and family for the success. ■

HARYANA:

An exciting mix of past and present

Randeep Wadehra

Haryana: An overview

by Dr S P Gupta

Pages: xvi + 256. Price: Rs 195

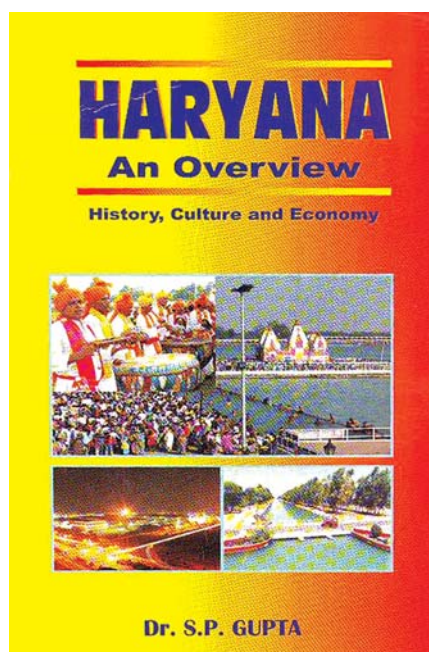
Though the name Haryana was given to the modern state, the region has a great mythological and historical pedigree. This was the region which witnessed the ushering in of the Kalyug with the beginning of the Mahabharata war between the Pandavas and Kauravas. The region was also host to Lord Krishna's celestial song, the Bhagwadgita. Right from the ancient times, the saint and the soldier found it an irresistible destination. Its historical town, Panipat, witnessed battles that changed the fortunes of the medieval India. Today, Haryana boasts of being a unique mix of hoary traditions and ultra-modern impulses.

According to the author, "Haryana is as old as mankind itself and the cradle of civilisation older than the Indus and the Nile Civilisations. However, Haryana lost its identity after 1857 when Haryanvis took extensive part in the First War of Independence. The period 1858 to 1965 is a saga of utter neglect coupled with the gradual impoverishment both by the British Rule and Punjab Administration."

Actually, Haryana hardly beeped on the intellectual radar as it never had a distinct socio-political identity before 1966. As the author rightly points out, the region was looked upon either as a part of the Medieval Delhi state or an extension of the North West Frontier Province. In fact, the author claims, Haryana was a part of the Bengal Presidency from 1803 to 1833. He also points out that the First War of Independence had begun in Haryana's Ambala Cantonment and not in Meerut. He gives details of how the 60th Native Infantry, stationed in Ambala, was the first to revolt on the issue of smeared cartridges.

After its formation in 1966, Haryana

literally came into its own. Its creative genius began to find expression in terms of tremendous progress in various fields – agricultural, industrial and tertiary. Its wheat production has increased tenfold, rice about sixteen times and oilseeds nine times. Its industrial production, in terms of rupees, has shot up more than fortyfold. Social indicators, too, show impressive improvement in the fields of education, health and social welfare. However, the female-male ratio is not mentioned. Why neglect this vital segment of the state's socio-cultural aspect? A healthy male-female



ratio will provide the state with a balanced demographic scenario apart from preventing various social evils wherein women will increasingly become specific targets. He also ignores another worrying social problem – the khap panchayats. There was a time when these institutions played a socially-relevant role. Today these have become captives of vested interests with retro mindsets.

The author delineates the state's IT policy and its beneficial effects on the state's economy and governance. He also enumerates how various social

welfare schemes positively impact the state's human resources development and reinforce the environment of social justice and empowerment. Schemes like the Rajiv Gandhi Parivar Bima Yojana and Ladli Social Security Allowance Scheme find a favourable mention in the book.

While dwelling upon the Panchayati Raj system, the author mentions the State Incentive Scheme on Sanitation that aims to "promote accelerated sanitation coverage". However, we do not find any performance analysis of the scheme. How far has it succeeded in making rural areas more hygienic? Are people taking to the modern means of sanitation or is there some resistance? The book provides no answers to these.

Though the author acquaints us with various schemes launched by the Haryana government, he does not provide any critical assessment of these schemes at the implementation level. One must admit that such an effort would need a lot of resources which an individual cannot afford – collection of empirical data, its tabulation and analysis would need team work. Perhaps, for the book's next edition, the author would be able to rope in the services of an NGO or the department of social sciences of a university to come up with reliable data.

Moreover, the book sketches various aspects of Haryana. It outlines the state's history right from the Vedic times onwards – garnished with mythology. We have already mentioned some of the known facts above. Interestingly, the author narrates the hitherto little known or poorly highlighted facts about Haryanvis' contributions to the Indian National Army, Quit India Movement, Second World War and other watershed events. Bhagat Phool Singh's participation in the Hyderabad incident is particularly striking – one wishes the author had given more details.

Apart from stating historical facts in brief, the book acquaints us with the state's natural resources, its demography and literacy-related issues. There are separate chapters on agriculture, industry, labour, human resource development and Panchayati Raj institutions. It can serve as a handy reference book. ■

The writer is a poet and columnist



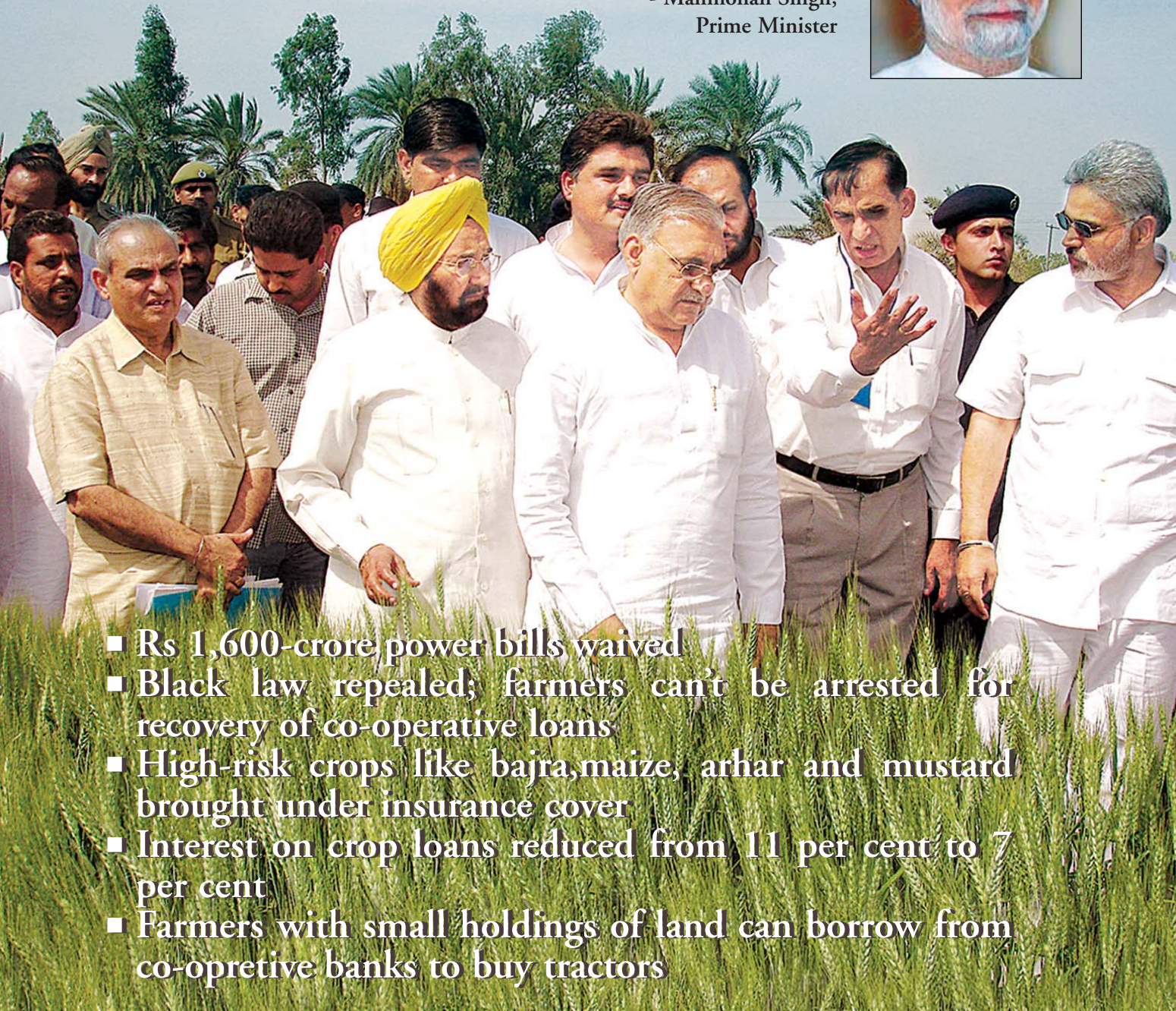
“We have provided interest relief on farm loans. The Central and Haryana governments are determined to ensure that farming becomes profitable. Ever since the UPA came to power, we have been increasing the MSP of wheat and rice besides that of the other commodities.”

- Mrs Sonia Gandhi, UPA
Chairperson

HARYANA: A bonanza for farmers


We are proud of the contribution of the Haryana farmers to India's prosperity. They provide food to millions of people. Haryana's contribution to the Central pool is unique as it is the second largest contributor of wheat and rice.

- Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister



- Rs 1,600-crore power bills waived
- Black law repealed; farmers can't be arrested for recovery of co-operative loans
- High-risk crops like bajra, maize, arhar and mustard brought under insurance cover
- Interest on crop loans reduced from 11 per cent to 7 per cent
- Farmers with small holdings of land can borrow from co-operative banks to buy tractors

Dawn of Freedom



“At the dawn of history, India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her success and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike, she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?”

Jawaharlal Nehru, announcing the dawn of India's freedom to the world at the midnight of August 14, 1947.