Celebrating the girl child

PM to launch 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' from Haryana
Why someone kill me?

An Educated Girl will
Stay healthy, Save money. Build a business. Empower her community. Lift her country.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Save the Girl Child
Save the Nation
Let her live, let her grow

The year 2015 could not have begun on a better note than express concern for the girl child. The concern arises from the unabated decline in the child sex ratio defined by the number of girls for every one 1,000 boys between 0-6 years of age, since 1961. Seen in the context of recent time-frame, the ratio has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and to 918 in 2011. Alarming indeed!

Good that the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, is launching the national initiative of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ from Panipat. The essence of the initiative is embedded in the message: ‘Let her live, let her grow’. Significantly, it is his first visit to Haryana after the formation of the first BJP Government in the state. That Haryana has been chosen for the launch of this pan-India intervention underscores the pull the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, enjoys with the powers that be in Delhi.

The run-up to the high-voltage launch will be marked by yatras in the districts to spread awareness about the decline in the sex ratio and a two-day brainstorming to brew more innovative ideas and suggestions on best practices for women and child development. Our Cover Report in this issue of Haryana Review dwells on the need, objectives and goals of the ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ Programme which will cover 100 districts in the country, including 12 in Haryana.

We also turn focus on the innovative and futuristic ‘Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015’ rolled out by the Chief Minister. A close and prying look at the policy brings out that it is marked by many such first-time initiatives as insurance cover for the players and pension scheme for the medal winners after they have hung their boots. With thrust on physical fitness and infrastructure, the policy is set to take sports to a new turf in Haryana.

We also bring our readers a Special Report on what participation in the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas at Gandhinagar in Gujarat has meant for Haryana. Showcasing true industrial potential the state has, a team of dedicated officers, guided by the Chief Minister, has brought Haryana close to investment worth Rs 26,000 crore.

The varied hues of the Heritage Fest held in the Pinjore Gardens have been captured in our Photo Feature. Get a recap of 2014 in the Sports segment and know which sports stars made their mark in the year. Driftwood is an ordinary thing, but in the hands of a skilled craftsman it can be transformed into an infinite variety of beautiful shapes. To know more about it, go to the Art and Culture section.
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Those readers who have changed their addresses should intimate it to Deputy Director Magazine, SCO 24, Top Floor, Sector 7-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160018. Ph. 0172-5055871
Two firsts mark the launch of the national programme ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, from Panipat on January 22, 2015. It is for the first time that the Prime Minister will be visiting Haryana after the formation of the first BJP Government in the state.

Also, it will be the first launch of a national scheme from the soil of Haryana after installation of the BJP Government in the state which speaks volumes about the proximity the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, enjoys with the powers that be in New Delhi.

SPREADING AWARENESS

Grateful, the Chief Minister has expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for accepting his request to launch this ambitious programme from the historical town of Panipat. Millions across the state will participate in the programme which will be preceded by yatras across the state to create awareness about the vital issue of the girl child and a two-day brain-storming at a workshop in Panipat.

Outlining broad outlines of the high-voltage ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ (BBBP) programme, the Chief Minister told Haryana Review, “It is a visionary programme which seeks to set right the skewed sex ratio and prevent its unfavourable impact on the declining sex ratio in the country”.

The Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, launching the national programme on the girl child from Panipat marks a feather in the cap of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal

Parveen K Modi
A toilet in every girls’ school in 100 vulnerable districts across the country, including 12 in Haryana; a state-level innovation fund to encourage such practices as help in improving the skewed child sex ratio and gender inequities; district level awards to schools strengthening education of the girl child are some of the targets the scheme aims at achieving by 2017. The Rs 100-crore scheme is expected to be monitored by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), headed by Mrs Maneka Gandhi, in coordination with the ministries of health and HRD.

The prime objective of the programme is to bring about a change in people’s mindset towards the girl child on or after her birth. “Preventing determination of sex, female foeticide, ensuring safety of girls, their best possible care and providing quality education constitute integral part of this programme,” he added.

Dwelling on the scheme, Mr Manohar Lal said that national level media and multi-sectoral campaigns would be carried out in the districts which have adverse child sex ratio. Besides, awareness tours would also be conducted.

The 12 districts of Haryana where BBBP would be implemented are: Mahendergarh, Jhajjar, Sonipat, Rewari, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Bhiwani and Panipat which have
the lowest child sex ratio. A two-day seminar-cum-workshop would be organised on January 20 and 21, 2015. Gujarat Chief Minister, Mrs Anandiben Patel, Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mrs Vasundhara Raje Scindia, and West Bengal Chief Minister Miss Mamata Banerjee, would be special invitees at the workshop. Besides, Women and Child Development Ministers and Principal Secretaries concerned of all states have also been invited to express their views on the subject.

**WHY THIS SCHEME?**

The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as number of girls per 1,000 of boys between 0-6 years of age, has been unabated since 1961. In a more recent timeframe, the CSR has alarmingly declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and to 918 in 2011.

The issue of declining child sex ratio is a major indicator of women disempowerment. It begins before birth, manifests in gender biased sex selection and elimination and continues in various forms of discrimination towards girl child after birth and comes in the way of fulfilling her health, nutrition and educational needs.

Social construct discriminating against girls on the one hand, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been critical in increasing gender biased sex selection of girls leading to low child sex ratio.

There are wide variations seen in ratios across different regions of the country. The CSR remains adverse in 21 states and Union Territories, the fall ranging from 3 to 79 points. Eleven states and two UTs have shown an increase in CSR during the last decade. The district level changes in CSR are much more pronounced as may be seen that out of 640 districts

**Awards and incentives**

The BBBM policy seeks to encourage people to make it a success by providing for the following:

- Identify individuals or civil society organizations which do exemplary work for implementation of the scheme for recommendation by DCs for Rajya Samman or Zila Samman initiated by MWCD
- Encourage meritorious girls from the fields of academics/sports/culture/social work/science etc.
- Felicitate/incentivise meritorious girls and their families with cash/token appreciation on National Girl Child Day/International Women’s Day/Independence Day/Republic Day etc.
- Highlight exemplary case studies of girls coming up despite odds, stories of families which have promoted daughters despite their struggles, in local media. Such stories will not only ensure media coverage and set positive examples but also help change the mindset of people towards the girl child.

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Flow chart of the administrative set for implementation of the BBBP Programme at various levels
The objectives

To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination:
Focussed intervention targeting enforcement of all existing legislations and Acts, especially to strengthen implementation of the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC&PNDT Act) with stringent punishments for violations of the law.

To ensure survival and protection of the girl child: Article 21 of the Constitution defines ‘protection of life and liberty’ as a legitimate right of its citizens. The difference in mortality rates of girls and boys indicates the difference in access to various health care and nutrition services as well as the preferential care and treatment given to boys.

The access to various entitlements, changes in patriarchal mindset etc. are to be addressed in order to ensure equal value, care for and survival of the infant and young girl child. Further implementation of various legislative provisions for the protection of the girl child and women has to be ensured to create a nurturing and safe environment for the girl child.

To ensure education and participation of the girl child: The access and availability of services and entitlements during the various phases of the life cycle of the girl child has a bearing on her development.

Essential requirements related to nutrition, health care, education and protection have to be fulfilled to enable every girl child to develop to her full potential, especially the right to quality early childhood care, elementary and secondary education. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2010 provides children the right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school.

Further, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme for achievement of universalisation of elementary education (UEE) in a time-bound manner, as mandated by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory education to the children of 6-14 years age group, a fundamental right.

Denial of these entitlements is a violation of children’s rights, which will have a lasting lifelong negative impact on them.

Discrimination and neglect of the girl child can lead to low self-esteem, lifelong deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream. Appropriate initiatives will be taken to encourage girls to express their views and to be heard, to participate actively, effectively and equally at all levels of social, economic, and political leadership.

Long-term interventions for gender equality would focus on creating enabling environment, including employable opportunities, safety and security, mobility and speedy justice.

With a view to supplementing media efforts, YouTube channel on BBBP has been launched where audio visual content for easy dissemination and sensitization is being shared on a regular basis (https://www.youtube.com/user/BetiBachao-BetiPadhao). To engage with the nation, Beti Bachao Bati Padhao Group on MyGov portal has been started to reach out to wider audience and seek active participation, engagement and whole hearted support for this initiative. Presence Beti Bachao Bati Padhao initiative has been registered in Vikaspedia portal also.

The BBBP Programme will be implemented through a national campaign and focussed multi-sectoral action in the selected districts, covering all states and UTs. This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

**CORE STRATEGIES**

The scheme is envisaged for focused interventions to improve the CSR within the overall National Strategy for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’. Recognizing the fact that the issue of decline in child sex ratio is complex and multi-dimensional, it shall be addressed within the broad framework of survival, protection and education of girl children. A multi-sectoral strategy which is governed by the core principles of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights

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**Monitorable targets**

- Improve the sex ratio at birth (SRB) in 100 gender critical districts by 10 points in a year.
- Reduce gender differentials in under five Child Mortality Rate from eight points in 2011 to four points by 2017.
- Improve the nutrition status of girls - by reducing number of underweight and anaemic girls under five years of age (from NFHS 3 levels).
- Ensure universalization of ICDS, girls’ attendance and equal care monitored, using joint ICDS NRHM Mother Child Protection Cards.
- Increase girls’ enrolment in secondary education from 76 per cent in 2013-14 to 79 per cent by 2017.
- Provide girls’ toilet in every school in 100 CSR districts by 2017.
- Promote a protective environment for girl children through implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- Train elected representatives/ grassroots functionaries as community champions to mobilise communities to improve CSR and promote girls’ education.

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**Social outreach**

- All community mobilization and outreach programmes need to be staggered throughout the year to keep the momentum of the campaign going. The DC/DM may work out detailed and customised district action plan with timeline for each activity. These include:
  - Community mobilisation and outreach through interactive initiatives like Naari ki Chaupal; Beti Janmotsav; Mann ki Baat, etc may be initiated to spread the message of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
  - Dedicate a special day every month for celebration of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’.
  - National Girl Child Day may be celebrated on January 24 every year by all stakeholders, including local opinion makers, PRI members, MLAs, MPs etc at district levels, led by the district administrations of the 100 gender critical districts.
  - International Women’s Day may be celebrated in order to send out a strong message highlighting the importance of gender equality and need of empowering women and girls. Further, celebration of this day can be used to highlight the contribution of empowered mothers to the BBBP Programme.
  - Pledge for protection, safety, value and education of the girl child may be adopted by the Government of India and the same may be taken on the occasion of the National Girl Child Day by DC/DM along with other government functionaries. The pledge shall be in Hindi and English and States/UTs may get the translation of the same done in regional languages for dissemination in the Districts.
  - Encouraging reversal of son centric rituals and customs.

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of girls and women, including the ending of gender based violence will be adopted. The core strategies will be as follows:

- Evolving a sustained social mobilization and communication campaign to change societal norms, to create equal value for the girl child.
- Positioning improvement in the child sex ratio as a lead development indicator for good governance.
- Focusing on very low child sex ratio or gender critical districts and cities for accelerated impact.
- Mobilizing and empowering frontline worker teams as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community, women’s, youth groups (Ahimsa Messengers).
- Developing capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban local bodies, especially women panchayats and urban local body members, to create community and peer support for making panchayats and urban wards girl child-friendly.
- Engendering development and essential services to ensure that service delivery structures are sufficiently responsive to issues of gender and children’s rights.
- Enabling inter-Ministerial and inter-institutional convergence at different levels.

COMPONENTS

i) Mass Communication Campaign on ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’: A nation-wide campaign will be initiated with the launch of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ to increase awareness on celebrating the girl child and enabling her to get education. The campaign will be aimed to ensure that girls are born, nurtured and educated without discrimination to become empowered citizens of this country with equal rights. The Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (DAVP) has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing a media campaign in consultation with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

ii) Multi-Sectoral intervention

in 100 Gender Critical Districts worse on CSR: The MWCD will initiate a multi-sectoral action plan in selected 100 districts covering all states/UTs for schematic intervention. Sectoral actions are drawn in consultation with the two ministries. Measurable outcomes and indicators will bring together concerned sectors, states and districts for urgent concerted multi-sectoral action to improve the CSR. A flexible framework for multi-sectoral action will be adapted and contextualised by State Task Forces for developing, implementing and monitoring state/district plans of action to achieve the state specific monitorable targets. States and districts will similarly develop their plans responsive to different contexts.

LINKAGE

At the Centre, linkages under the proposal shall be established with concerned line ministries/departments, namely Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD). At the states/UTs level, the Department of WCD will work in close coordination with these concerned departments for inclusion of the issue of child sex ratio as a priority agenda.

Further, linkages will also be strengthened with the existing government training institutions and autonomous training institutes at national and state levels to provide training on matters related to CSR. Sharing of good practices with line departments/states for encouraging adoption of good practices would be done.

At the district level, appropriate linkages with panchayats, anganwadi centres, PHCs will also be strengthened. Grassroots functionaries of different departments shall be sensitised and trained on the issue of CSR, value of girl child and promoting her education. This will, in turn, facilitate community ownership and participation on creating an enabling environment for survival, protection and education of girl child.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Women and Child Development would be responsible for budgetary control and administration of the scheme from the Cen-
tre. At the state level, the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, will be responsible for overall direction and implementation of the scheme. The structure of the proposed scheme may be seen as follows:

**National level:** At the national level, a National Task Force for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ will be formed. Headed by Secretary, WCD, it will have representation from concerned ministries namely, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, National Legal Services Authority, Department of Disability Affairs and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Also, gender experts and civil society representatives will be included.

The task force will provide guidance and support; finalise training content; review state plans and monitor effective implementation. A sub-group would be constituted for a Joint Communication Action Committee (JCAC) with representatives from relevant ministries to work out the joint and comprehensive National Communication and Media Campaign. This would be convened every quarter.

**Multi-sectoral interventions:** The scheme would be anchored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, with the critical task of coordinating and monitoring multi-sectoral interventions. Concerned ministries would be responsible for ensuring relevant sectoral inputs for effective implementation. The MWCD will have the responsibility of coordinating implementation of the scheme through the Women’s Welfare Bureau. Technical inputs for implementation and coordination would be extended by the Project Management Unit (PMU) supported by the National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW).

**State level:** At the state level, states shall form a State Task Force (STF) with representation of concerned departments (Health & Family Welfare; Education; Panchayati Raj/ Rural Development), including State Level Services Authority and Department of Disability Affairs for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ to coordinate the implementation of the Scheme. As the issue requires convergence and coordination between Departments, the Task Force would be headed by the Chief Secretary. In UTs, the Task Force would be headed by Administrator, UT Administration. Some states/UTs have their own mechanism at the state/UT level for women’s empowerment, gender and child related issues which may be considered and/or strengthened as state/UT Task Force. Principal Secretary, WCD/Social Welfare will be the convenor of this body. The Department of Women & Child Development will have the responsibility of coordinating all the activities related to implementation of the Plan in the State/UTs through the Directorate of ICDS. State Resource Centre for Women (SRCWs) will act as a Secretariat to provide technical and coordination support for implementation of the state action plan. A gender expert/CSO member may also be included in the task force.

**District level:** At the district level, a District Task Force (DTF) led by the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner with representation of concerned departments (Health & Family Welfare; Appropriate Authority (PC&PNDT); Education; Panchayati Raj/ Rural Development, Police), including District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) will be responsible for effective implementation, monitoring and supervision of the District Action Plan. Technical support and guidance for the implementation of Action Plan in the district would be provided by District Programme Officer (DPO) in the District ICDS Office for formulation of District Action Plan using the block level action plans. A gender expert/CSO member may also be included in the task force.

**Block level:** At the block level, a block level committee would be set
up under the chairpersonship of the sub-divisional magistrate/sub-divisional officer/Block Development Officer (as may be decided by the concerned State Governments) to provide support in effective implementation, monitoring & supervision of the Block Action Plan.

Gram Panchayat/Ward level: At the Gram Panchayat/Ward level, the respective Panchayat Samiti/Ward Samiti (as may be decided by concerned state governments) having jurisdiction over the concerned Gram Panchayat/Ward would be responsible for the overall coordination and supervision for effectively carrying out activities under the Plan.

Village level: At village level, Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees, (recognised as sub-committees of panchayats) will guide and support village level implementation and monitoring of the plan. Frontline workers (AWWs, ASHAs & ANMs) will catalyse action on ground by creating awareness on the issue of CSR, collecting data, dissemination of information about schemes/programmes related to girl child and their families.

Budget: A budgetary allocation of Rs 100 crore has been made under the budget announcement for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ programme and Rs 100 crore will be mobilised from plan outlay of the planned scheme ‘Care and Protection of Girl Child - A Multi Sectoral Action Plan’ for the 12th Plan. Additional resources can be mobilised through corporate social responsibility at national & state levels.

The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 200 crore, out of which Rs 115 crore is proposed to be released during the current year, i.e 2014-15 (for six months). A sum of Rs 45 crore and Rs 40 crore will be released during 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively.

Monitoring mechanisms: A monitoring system will be put in place right from national, state, district, block and village levels to track progress on monitorable targets, outcomes and process indicators. At the national level, a National Task Force, headed by Secretary MWCD, will monitor quarterly progress on a regular basis. At state level, a State Task Force, headed by the Chief Secretary, will monitor progress. At the district level, the District Collectors (DC) will lead and coordinate action of all departments through district-level officials. They shall also undertake monthly review of the progress on the activities listed in the department plans of action at the district level.

Evaluation: The scheme would be evaluated at the end of the 12th Five Year Plan to assess its impact and take corrective measures. Mapping of ultra-sonography machines, baseline survey of concurrent assessment of percentage of births of male and female child, reporting of complaints under PC& PNDT Act will also help in assessing the impact or outcome.
The Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has rolled up its sleeves to achieve the targets set by the Union Government to combat the problem of dwindling sex ratio at birth. For the government, the goal is clear—to stop female foeticide and save our darling daughters. All efforts would be directed towards meeting the targets by the fixed deadline.

The Central Government has released Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) figures for 2013-14 and targets set for 2014-15 and 2015-16 for 100 critical districts covering all states/UTs identified under the ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ Programme. We are reproducing the figures for 50 districts covering states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and UTs Chandigarh and Delhi.

### District-wise two year (2014-15 & 2015-16) targets for SRB

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Brainstorming to throw up ideas

Four Chief Ministers will attend the two-day workshop in Panipat on best practices for women and child development

Parveen K Modi

It will be a brain-storming of sorts. Brain-storming at the two-day national thematic workshop on Best Practices in Women and Child Development being organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in Panipat on January 20-21, 2015.

Four Chief Ministers—Mrs Anandiben Patel (Gujarat), Mrs Vasundhara Raje Scindia (Rajasthan), Ms Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal) and Mr Manohar Lal (Haryana) would be special invitees at the workshop. With experts and officials participating, the high-wattage workshop will evolve focused strategy and come up with recommendations for women and child development. Of course, it will be informed by best practices and innovative approaches on key themes that have worked well in different states and districts.

The workshop provides a theme-based platform for presenting and discussing innovative models, through dialogue (chintan) with other states/UTs, experts and voluntary agencies. It would facilitate inter-state sharing and learning with focus on understanding what is new in these best practices, and how is the innovation different.

It will also facilitate synthesis of the lessons learnt for the shaping of a strategy framework that reflects innovation and enables possible adaptation and replication of these best practices within the state and in other states and UTs.

The National Thematic Workshop will be conducted for two days leading up to the launch of the ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ initiative scheduled for January 22, 2015. Prior to the kick-off of workshop sessions, there will be self-introduction for state teams to meet and view poster presentations by the states.

INAGURAL SESSION

Day One of the workshop will start with the inaugural session which will set the pace for the workshop and reinforce policy commitment to recommend strategy emerging from best practices. This will be followed by thematic sessions. Each thematic session will be conducted for 45 minutes, with presentation of the best practices by identified states and with 20 minutes for open discussion.

On the conclusion of each thematic session, session rapporteurs will display major learning from the session and strategy recommendations on charts displayed at the venue.

THEMATIC SESSIONS ON JAN 20

The first day will cover major thematic sessions related to nutrition in the first half of the day, followed by child development and protection in the second half. The identified themes for nutri-

STATE SPECIFIC INNOVATIONS

Deliberations on the first day will conclude with an open dialogue session to facilitate experience-sharing by state teams on state specific innovations, to listen to the voices from the field and identify enabling conditions for innovation.

THEMATIC SESSIONS ON JAN 21

The second day will cover major the-
mamic sessions related to women: safety, empowerment and protection in the first half. The identified themes include adolescent girls (which provides the continuum, linking the previous day’s sessions on child protection with this session); ending violence against women and girls and women’s empowerment.

This will be followed by a critical thematic session on community initiatives for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’, which brings together different sectoral interventions for the care and protection of the girl child, in a community perspective, learning from voices from the field, such as members of panchayati raj institutions, anganwadi workers and ASHAs.

CONCLUDING SESSION
The workshop will culminate in shaping a collective commitment to time-bound action for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’. This will be signed by states and participants. After the concluding session, state teams will also have the option of meeting in state cluster/ interest groups which will continue as forums for inter-state dialogue, learning and mentoring on key themes. Field-based learning hubs may also emerge from this process.

It has been designed to promote experiential learning, using the sharing of best practice case studies to stimulate learning and innovation. The sessions are structured to enable interventions from a mixed group, including practitioners, experts and civil society, blending the state of the science with the state of the practice. The display of learning from each session is designed to encourage transparency, reflection and feedback from participants, which will shape the form of the commitment sheet to be finalised in the concluding session.

The workshop will use participatory methodologies, including during state poster sessions and cluster interest groups, to enable peer learning and mentoring. Learning hubs are also envisaged with field based best practice sites viewed as possible “learning centres/ living universities.

The workshop could not have been timed better. It concludes on the eve of the launch of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ initiative by the Prime Minister on January 22. Women and children constitute about 70 per cent of India’s population and are critical foundation for national development now as well as in the future. More inclusive growth must begin with children and women breaking an intergenerational cycle of inequity and multiple deprivations faced by women and girls, as related to poverty, social exclusion, gender discrimination and under-nutrition.

This intergenerational cycle of multiple deprivation and violence faced by girls and women is reflected in the adverse and steeply declining child sex ratio in children under six years of age which reached an all-time low of 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.

Discrimination against the girl child is also evident in other forms of gross neglect and gender-based violence after birth – in infancy, early childhood and adolescence, reflected in the unequal access to health, nutrition, care and education. If not addressed, child marriage, early and frequent pregnancies also result in the adolescent girl child being denied her right to be a child - her right to childhood.

Expected outcomes

- Synthesis and dissemination of best practices related to key themes for women, child rights, the girl child and nutrition.
- Strengthening of an enabling environment for innovation through enhanced familiarity of national/ state teams with innovative approaches and capacity development
- Strategy recommendations that reflect innovation and synthesise learning from these models, for use across states and UTs
- Systems and mechanisms evolved for continued inter-state learning and mentoring support, with e-networking.
- A shared commitment finalised for time-bound action for addressing key themes in innovative ways, especially those related to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

The objectives

- To highlight best practices for key themes related to women, child rights, the girl child and nutrition from different states, Union Territories and districts.
- To enable inter-state sharing and learning from these models through thematic presentations, dialogue, state poster sessions and cluster/interest group interactions.
- To evolve a strategy framework that syntheses learning from these models for adaptation/ replication and enables innovation and new approaches.
- To encourage mentoring support between states and continued learning, through the formation of state interest groups, field based learning hubs and thematic e-networks.
- To develop a shared commitment for addressing key themes - especially those related to ensuring Care and Protection of the Girl Child - Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
SPORTS POLICY 2015: Innovative, out of box

Takes players aboard flight from ground zero to cloud nine

The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, releasing the ‘Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015’ on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti at Rohtak. The Sports Minister, Mr Anil Vij and the Additional Chief Secretary, Sports Department, Dr K K Khandelwal are also seen in the picture
A number of innovative decisions mark the ground-zero-to-cloud-nine 'Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015' rolled out by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal.

Out-of-the-box thinking finds manifestation in a number of innovative decisions that mark the ground-zero-to-cloud-nine 'Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015' rolled out by the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, in a state level function organised at Rohtak. Picking a potential player from ground zero—rural playgrounds to spot and nurture sporting talent—the policy facilitates him to hone his skills and takes him on cloud nine after he wins medal in any global or national sporting event, and gets award money and job, to boot.

Hike in the award money for different medals and scholarships for players apart, the steeped-in-welfare policy stands by the player all through: he gets incentive in the shape of scholarship when he is getting groomed; insurance cover for any injury sustained during the training; and the medal winners job, and pension after they have hung their boots.

Medal winners in recognised international competitions will now get jobs by way of right to employment. The existing policy of giving employment in a government department or public sector undertaking to medal winners or an outstanding player of international repute and one, who has played for India in international tournaments, has been made more transparent.

INSURANCE SCHEME

The well defined criteria laid down in the policy leaves little room for discretion, Mr Anil Vij, Sports Minister said. On the anvil is an insurance scheme for the players to insure them against sports accidents, sports injuries and other exigencies. Besides, a pension scheme will be designed to give a clear-cut message to all such talented sportspersons as want to become champions at international level.

"The need for assured monthly income through annuity for outstanding sportspersons has become imperative due to the fact that sportspersons spend prime of their youth in pursuit of intensive training, sacrificing other lucrative opportunities which are usually available", the minister added.

The other innovative decisions include making Yoga compulsory in schools; giving sports education a dose of stimulation; sports school in each district; setting up of a State Institute of Sports Development; and changing the nature of Moti Lal Nehru Sports School, Rai, from public school with emphasis on sports to sports school with quality education.
The policy unveiled

The vision of the policy is to create a dynamic and innovative culture that promotes and celebrates participation and excellence in sports.

Preetinder Kaur Sodhi

The 'Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015' makes a bold attempt at creating a dynamic and innovative culture to promote and celebrate participation and excellence in sports. Equal emphasis has been laid on physical fitness, creation of infrastructure and making sports a truly rewarding career. A desired outcome of the policy is that both the number and diversity of people of Haryana participating in sports should increase over the time frame of 2015-2020.

AIM OF POLICY - ‘SPORTS FOR ALL’

The Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Mr Anil Vij said that, the policy aims at two specific themes, ‘Sports for All’ and ‘Excellence in Sports’. To achieve this, five broad goals of the policy have been set up which include Introduction to Sport, Recreational Sport, Competitive Sport, High Performance Sport and Sports for Development.

These goals are aimed at acquainting the people with the fundamental
skills, knowledge and attitudes to participate in organised and unorganised sports; to give the people the opportunity to participate in sports for fun, health, social interaction and relaxation and to give them an opportunity to systematically improve and measure their performance against others in competition in a safe and ethical manner.

The High Performance Sport Goal will lead the Haryana athletes to systematically achieve the world-class results at the highest levels of international competition through fair and ethical means and finally sports to be used as a tool for social and economic development and for the promotion of positive values at home and abroad. Similarly, under each of the five goal statements, policy objectives are also presented to enhance the quality of sports programming and its potential to achieve intended outcomes.

MONITORING GROUP
The mandate of this policy is to encourage, promote and develop physical activity and sports in Haryana. An Implementation and Monitoring Group will be set up which will be responsible for collating and sharing the action plans of government and NGOs, and for monitoring progress.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO WOMEN
Special efforts will be made to encourage women to participate in sports by giving higher scale of incentives for women who win tournaments at national and international level. It is intended to make available at least 30 per cent of the available accommodation at various stadium to women players. Apart from yoga, special efforts will be taken to promote karate and other self defence sports and games across all the educational institutions for women.

FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED
All necessary steps will be taken to meet sports needs of differently-abled persons. Proper care will be taken to ensure that there are sufficient infrastructure, training facilities and competitive events to enable them to participate fully in sports. District and state level tournament will be organised in various games for differently-abled persons.

The endeavour of the government is to promote all sports disciplines which are regularly featuring in Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Apart from these games appropriate measures will be taken to promote rural games and games which are likely to be included in future Olympics or Asian Games. Marathon race would also be promoted.

INDIGENOUS, ADVENTURE SPORTS
The state has vast array of indigenous sports and games like gatka, bullock-cart racing, kabbadi which are integral to the civilization inheritance of our country and its people. The government intends to give due importance to traditional sports. It will ensure that they are given adequate support to survive and thrive. Similarly, adventure sports like trekking, scuba diving, gliding, skiing, river rafting, rock climbing, mountaineering and cycling will also be promoted.

PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAMME
A ‘State Physical Fitness Programme’ using various youth networks such as National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYK), National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Bharat Scouts and Guides (BS&G) will be carried out to encourage people of all age groups to engage in physical fitness activity. A special programme of physical fit-
ness will be introduced in all schools.

**CATCH THEM YOUNG**

With the motto ‘catch them young, catch them right’ a mass exercise to test physical exercise ability of all children would be organised annually in schools in collaboration with School Education Department. Participants from all over the state will be administered a battery of standardised tests in three rounds. The score will be published in percentile format on the pattern of CAT score. The result will be made available in public domain of the department’s website www.play4india.com. For those qualifying after second round will be given a certificate for their achievement in Sports and Physical Aptitude. The players selected for the nurseries/academies would have to undergo continuous evaluation. This new scheme will be known as Sports and Physical Aptitude Continuous Evaluation (SPACE).

Along with other parameters like height, weight, blood group, place of birth, date of birth, background, preferred sports, parents’ income level and occupation, SPACE score will enable the department to create a usable database in case of potential athletes in an objective, transparent and reliable manner.

**COACH PROGRAMME**

Special Coach Development Programme has also been announced under the new sports policy. The programme will empower coaches to assist athletes to prepare training programmes, communicate effectively with athletes, assist athletes to develop new skills, use evaluation tests to monitor training progress and predict performance. High performance coaches will be given training in the quality institutions or coaching centers both within India and abroad.

At the block level stadiums, one coach each will be provided. All district level stadiums will have coaches in minimum five sports disciplines. A system for evaluation for performance of coaches will be put in place so as to make coaches accountable. Every coach will be given a sports academy in his own discipline and his performance evaluation will be based on output and performance of the nursery. The vast manpower pool in the form of DPEs of colleges and physical training instructors of the schools is involved in sports development and promotion activities. All such officials will be actively encouraged to undergo specialised training programs to learn game-specific coaching skills. The Education Department will frame necessary guidelines and rules in this regard.

The strength of referees, umpire and judges as well as their professional standards will be raised to national and international level during next five years.

**NSCI, 2011**

With a view to promoting the practices of good governance, especially transparency and accountability, in the management of sports at
the state level, the Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Department has decided to adhere to the National Sports Development Code of India (NSCI), 2011.

The adoption of good governance practices by sports federations, sports associations is essential for healthy sports development in the country as well as in the state. In the recent past, the government has taken various steps to further improve the management of NSFs and sports in the country.

These include notification of the Anti-Doping Code; introduction of annual recognition of NSFs to ensure transparency and accountability of NSFs; enforcement of age and tenure limit in respect of office bearers of NSFs, including the Indian Olympic Association; bringing NSFs under the purview of Right to Information Act; measures to ensure free, fair and transparent elections by the NSFs; and measures to combat age fraud in sports; and guidelines for the prevention for sexual harassment of women in sports.

Yoga will be given special emphasis as part of physical fitness for all age groups. It will be introduced in all educational institutions in the state. It will be compulsory in all schools and in the zero hour there will be regular Yoga practice in schools. It will be treated as an integral part of all sports training programs. Appropriate techniques will be introduced to help sportspersons improve flexibility, concentration and mental strength which are pre-requisites for high quality performance.

One Yoga centre in all district sports stadium will be opened as an integral part for training and practice. Municipal Local Bodies and Haryana Urban Development Authority will construct yoga practice halls in their areas of jurisdiction. Special coaching of physical education teachers in Yoga will be organised.

The Education Department will include Yoga as a subject in the curricula of all degree and diploma level program of physical education. International Day of Yoga will be celebrated on June 21 every year. Besides Yoga camps, Yoga competitions will be organised at various levels for different segments and age-groups.
Shweta Vashishta

Sports in rural Haryana are all set to get a boost. About 6,500 village-level stadiums (Vyayamshallas) will be constructed in the villages of Haryana to make children physically fit and spot and nurture budding sporting talent. Also, traditional sports will be promoted in a big way. This was announced by the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, while outlining the broad contours of the ‘Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015’ at a state-level function held on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in Rohtak.

As studies strengthen the mind, he said, sports activities provide strength to the body. The new sports policy, which seeks to build consciousness about physical fitness, has been prepared keeping this in mind. He expressed the hope that the people of the state would benefit from this policy by way of good health.

6,500 VILLAGE LEVEL STADIUMS

The Chief Minister said that 6,500 village level stadiums (Vyayamshallas) would be constructed in the village of the state. Where the number of panchayats is more than one, block-level stadium will be built on six acres of land. Part-time coaches and physical training instructors (PTIs) will be engaged to train children in the villages.

The traditional games would also be promoted and the state game of wrestling would get a big push. The Sports Minister, Mr. Anil Vij, said that in order to promote village and traditional games, a Haryana Premier League would be started. Similarly, for the promotion of sports at village, block, district, municipal committee, municipal council, municipal corporation and state level, a Sports Council of Haryana would be constituted.

A new programme Vyayamshala would be launched in each Gram Panchayat, while efforts will be made to develop one playfield in each of the revenue village under every gram panchayat over a period of next five years. The land requirement for village playfield area might vary from...
An integrated approach for creation of sports facilities at gram panchayat level would be adopted through convergence with MGNREGA and for creation of at least five outdoor games facilities in each gram panchayat area. The gram panchayats will take up maintenance of the playfields out of their own resources.

Panchayats that already have basic sports infrastructure, including school playgrounds, which can also be used for community sports beyond school hours and during holidays, will ensure that such infrastructure already created is made available for community use or to be managed by suitable local arrangements or the sports youth club or NYKS registered youth club, as decided by the elected gram panchayat or village sports council.

**PLAYFIELDS IN SCHOOLS**

The schools may be given first priority for development of playfields, subject to the availability of requisite quantum of land with them. The mini stadia already created in some of the villages are to be attached with the nearby school. The state government will continue to build new sports infrastructure in rural areas out of its own resources and with the assistance of Haryana Rural Development Fund.

At the block level, one block level sports complex will be developed in each block of all the districts in the state over a period of next five years. These block level stadiums will have both indoor and outdoor facilities. In these block level stadiums sports facilities for about fifteen outdoor and indoor sports disciplines, along with sports equipment of requisite quality would be created by convergence of resources under different schemes.

The block level sports stadiums would be located within the premises of an existing school or college playground, provided the available area is minimum 6-7 acres. Block panchayats that already have basic sports infrastructure, including school (high or higher secondary)/college playgrounds, which can also be used for community sports beyond working hours and during holidays will ensure that such sports infrastructure already created is made available for community use or to be managed by suitable local arrangements or sports youth club/NYKS registered youth club, as decided by the elected block panchayat or block sports council.

**A YOUTH POLICY SOON**

The Sports Minister said that a ‘Youth Policy’ would be prepared soon to channelise the energies of the youth into constructive nation-building activities. He lamented the fact that the youth in the neighbouring state of Punjab was being spoilt by narcotics. The Youth Policy would aim at engaging them in activities they were interested in. The youth who were not interested in sports, can take interest in other activities like music, painting etc.

Referring to the earlier SPAT programme, the Chief Minister said that it was only a paper programme because the 5,000 children selected under SPAT did receive the scholarship but never returned to the playground. Now sports talent would be selected from amongst the children and it would be ensured that they remain on the ground. Everyone should be on the ground one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening, he averred.

With all these initiatives, sports in rural areas of Haryana will surely get a push and the government will be able to create a different kind of sports culture in villages too.
The sports infrastructure in Haryana will soon get a facelift, courtesy the sports policy, 2015 of the Haryana Government, unveiled by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal. Nurseries, academies and wings will be overhauled, ‘Sports Centre of Excellence’ and sports and health clubs would be set up and district level stadiums would be upgraded.

For improvement and maintenance of the sports infrastructure, a Sports Authority of Haryana would be formed. A Haryana Sports Development Fund would also be set up which will give grants to the sports persons at the time of need.

**DIGITAL DATA FOR SPORTSPERSONS**

Digital data for sportspersons would be prepared in which the record of the number of the days he or she has spent on the ground and the awards won would be kept. At the same time, the players who spend time on the ground would be given scholarship and not those who rest at home. Similarly, Sports Nutritionist and Motivator would be appointed.

The present system of nurseries, academies and wings would be thoroughly overhauled, said the Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Mr Anil Vij. The sports nurseries would be converted into junior sports academies. In the academies only sports talent hunt test qualifiers and players with proven record who are already undergoing coaching would be admitted.
FOCUS - SPORTS POLICY

The Sports Wing would be converted into Sports Championship and Competition Centres. In the Sports Championship and Competition Centres, only medal winners at the state level would be admitted. There would be substantial increase in the number of sports academies in the state to accommodate all the willing SPEED test qualifiers. Presently there are 33 nurseries and 15 academies in operation. Their number would be increased to about 200 academies in the state. Every block will have at least one sports academy.

CONTINUOUS EVALUATION

The selection of boys and girls for the academies will be made in a transparent manner after fixing standards or criteria on the basis of SPEED test. There would be continuous evaluation of performance and a new programme making use of information technology would be put in place by the name Sports and Physical Aptitude Continuous Evaluation (SPACE).

For promoting excellence in the games in which the sportsmen from the state have performed exceeding well at national and international level, ‘Sports Centre of Excellence’ would be set up for selected games. To start with such centres will be set up for boxing, wrestling, football, cricket, basketball and kabaddi etc, i.e. in priority games.

State would support to set up a network of national academies in collaboration with Sports Authority of India, national federations and private sector in the state to train players for international competitions.

Three national academies viz. National Academy for Boxing, National Academy for Athletics and National Academy for Wrestling have already been sanctioned by Government of India and are likely to be operational by March, 2015. The state would endeavour to make maximum advantage of these institutes of international standard and would strive for maximum number of participants from the state.

Under the new sports policy, state sports associations and their district and local constituent units would be encouraged as also other sports administrative bodies like sports councils, besides the sports boards of the PSUs to organise on a massive scale a wide variety of individual and team based sports competitions in their respective disciplines. It will cover both area-based competitions at inter-village, block, district and state level and between institutions such as inter-school, college, university, club, youth club or sports club, as well as community-based informal organizations.

Such competitions would be organised from the village level upwards up to the state level for different categories of players like men, women, juniors and sub-juniors, veterans, and the physically challenged. A sports calendar will be brought by April 30 every year detailing the various tournaments planned by various associations, School Education Department, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan tournaments etc., so that there is no overlap of events and this will also help in making advanced preparations on the part of all concerned, including players.

UPGRADING DISTRICT STADIUMS

The state government has decided that sports infrastructure will be created uniformly throughout the state and ‘State Sports Grid’ will be developed so that maximum people have access to use sports infrastructure. More village level and block level stadiums will be created.

Upgrading of district level stadiums will be taken up. Facilities for minimum fifteen sports discipline (ten outdoor and five indoor games) would be created, if not existing. Gymnasium facility in all districts level stadiums would be provided. District level stadiums would be owned, managed and operated by respective district sports council.

Sports Minister Anil Vij said that though level of sports infrastructure in larger urban agglomerations was generally better than in rural areas, yet there are wide disparities in access to sports facilities for different segments of society, the economically weaker sections being the most disadvantaged, along with girls, children and the physically challenged.

The state government will introduce and implement a programme in
urban areas, parallel to the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan for rural areas, to financially support the municipal bodies and other urban local institutions to provide basic safe places to play in poorer areas in convergence with other schemes. The municipal bodies will need to provide the minimum prescribed extent of land on a realistic basis.

Municipal bodies and private institutions will be encouraged to allocate more resources for investment in sports infrastructure, equipment and trained staff in selected sports and games in each urban area to make available sports facilities for the general public on commercial terms. Conscious efforts will be made with the stakeholders concerned to promote physical activity and sport in everyday context – at work and at home. All organisations will be encouraged to provide facilities to their employees to promote physical fitness.

MUNICIPAL TOWN STADIUMS

Minimum one stadium in each municipal town will be created for at least five outdoor games facilities. Schools or colleges may be given priority, subject to the availability of requisite quantum of land with them. College and school playgrounds may be developed as municipal town stadiums which can be used for community sports beyond working hours and during holidays.

Wherever open spaces/green spaces/playfields are available within the municipal area these would be developed and preserved for the use of community for sports and physical activity. In the development plan of all the urban areas in the state, requisite provision of playfields and sports facilities will be made. Sports stadiums would be constructed by HUDA in the urban areas within its jurisdiction and requisite sports facilities would be created in a time bound manner in consultation with sports department.

He said that as many as four zonal level sports stadiums would be created at the divisional headquarters. One more state level sports stadium would be established at Gurgaon apart from two existing state level stadiums. One stadium with international level facilities would be created. Additional resources would be mobilised for development of sports infrastructure in the state making use of PPP model.

For fostering a sports club culture, the setting up of a variety of public and private sports and youth development institutions as well as sports and health clubs will be encouraged and supported in both rural and urban areas with particular emphasis on poorer localities. It will enable the young and the old, men and women, the physically challenged and the children, casual players and serious contenders, employees and professionals, the health conscious and talented sportspersons to find a suitable playing environment to meet their playing needs.

These sports clubs would either create their own facilities or access public or private facilities through suitable ‘pay and play’ or ‘come and play’ schemes for their members. They could also avail themselves of the governmental programmes and schemes to provide the required facilities, equipment and technical support. There are a large number of clubs or private coaching institutions run by private coaches. Club culture will be promoted to create a competitive sporting environment in the state. For this purpose, a committee will be set up to suggest a detailed action plan.

The suggestive list of Priority Games or High Potential Games would be athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, volleyball, basketball, women hockey, boxing, judo and yoga. The suggestive list of General Category or Medium Potential Games would be football, aquatic, badminton, lawn tennis, handball and hockey (men).

Based on the potential of players to excel in various games at international and national level, the games would be grouped in three categories so as to deploy resources with a view to achieving best outcome. These categories would be Priority Games or High Potential Games, General Category or Medium Potential Games and Other Category or Low Potential Games.

PRIORITY GAMES

The suggestive list of Priority Games or High Potential Games would be athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, volleyball, basketball, women hockey, boxing, judo and basketball, women hockey, boxing, judo and yoga. The suggestive list of General Category or Medium Potential Games would be football, aquatic, badminton, lawn tennis, handball and hockey (men). Other Category or Low Potential Games would have such sports which are not covered under priority games and general games categories.

At the gram panchayat level, the playfields and facilities for outdoor sports disciplines like football, hockey, kabbadi, kho-kho, volleyball and handball would be promoted.
At the block level, outdoor sports disciplines like athletics, basketball, football/hockey, kabaddi/kho-kho, volleyball, handball and badminton would be promoted.

**FACILITIES FOR FIVE GAMES**

Out of these, facilities for minimum five games would be created at the block level. At the block level, five indoor sports disciplines like boxing, wrestling, table tennis, weightlifting and provision for a multi-gym would also be promoted. Depending upon the local resources, additional games might also be promoted.

At the municipal committee level, playground facilities for five games would be created which included football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball and handball (any five). At the municipal council level, the outdoor sports disciplines which would be promoted included athletics, basketball, football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball and handball. Out of these, minimum five games facilities would be created in the municipal council.

At the municipal council level, the five indoor sports disciplines which would also be promoted include boxing, wrestling, table tennis, weightlifting and provision for a multi-gym. At the municipal corporation level, fifteen outdoor sports disciplines would be promoted which include athletics, basketball, football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, handball and badminton. At the municipal corporation level, six indoor sports disciplines, including boxing, wrestling, table tennis, weightlifting and provision for a multi-gym, yoga and judo, will be promoted.

The Haryana Government has also taken a number of steps for sports administration and management, which include Constitution of Sports Authority of Haryana, Sports Councils, Sports Gradation Authority and Creation of Sports Development Fund.

**BOOSTING ATHLETIC EFFICIENCY**

For the promotion of sports and physical fitness, to augment athletic efficiency in the state, statutory Sports Councils at state level, district level, block level, village level, municipal corporation level, municipal committee level and university level will be constituted. The respective sports councils will be responsible for coaching, training, competitions and playgrounds operation and maintenance.

**SPORTS AUTHORITY OF HARYANA**

For creation of infrastructure and its repair and maintenance, procurement and maintenance of specialised sports equipment and for running of sports nurseries, academies and centres, Sports Authority of Haryana will be created.

In order to meet the growing needs for sports development in the state, to take up research and development studies, give cash award to the medal winners in national and international events, give grant-in-aid/special grants to state sports associations, clubs, meritorious players, welfare measures of the sportspersons, provide suitable assistance/pension to outstanding sportspersons now living in indigent circumstances etc, Haryana Sports Development Fund will be created under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Haryana.
The Haryana Government is out to incentivise sports like never before. Besides conferring the right to job on medal winners in recognised international competitions, the 'Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015', provides for an insurance scheme and concrete lifetime assistance to sportspersons in the shape of a pension scheme.

Keeping in mind the welfare of sportspersons, a number of schemes and awards have been introduced in the new sports policy. These include right to employment, insurance for player, assured monthly income and various awards for them.

The Haryana Government not only thinks about the players but is equally concerned about the coaches who put their blood and sweat in training these sportsmen. Besides instituting some new awards for players, the Haryana Government is coming up with awards for coaches as well as sports associations dotting the length and breadth of the state. All these awards and welfare measures are introduced to take sports in the state to an all new level.

A pension scheme will be designed to give a clear cut message to all those talented sportspersons who want to become champions at international level.

Yogeshwar Dutt

Preetinder Kaur Sodhi
cut message to all those talented sportspersons who want to become champions at international level. They will find that the government, along with appreciation of their achievement would also provide concrete lifetime assistance in the form of a pension.

**ASSURED MONTHLY INCOME**

The need for assured monthly income through annuity for outstanding sportspersons has become imperative due to the fact that sportspersons spend prime of their youth in pursuit of intensive training, sacrificing other lucrative opportunities which are usually available. Honorarium and pension will be given to Arjun Awardees, Dyanchand Awardees and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees from the state in addition to the incentives given by the Government of India.

**RIGHT OF EMPLOYMENT**

The government will give right of employment to medal winners in recognised international competitions. The existing policy of giving employment in a government department or public sector undertaking to medal winners in recognised international competitions or an outstanding player of international repute and one who has played for India in international tournaments will be made more transparent and based on well defined criteria leaving no scope for discretion.

**NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS UP**

It is recognised that scholarship and stipend are necessary to attract and retain talent in sports. The Haryana Government will increase the number of sports scholarships as well as enhance the scholarship amount.

Several new awards have also been announced for the sportspersons, besides the Bhim Award, the highest state award given to the outstanding players of Haryana.

**EKLAVYA AWARD**

On the pattern of Bhim Award for senior players, state award for the junior players, Eklavya Award, will be instituted. The awards will be given every year to five junior sportspersons of the state; three in individual events and two in team events. The award will be given once to sportspersons of Haryana based on previous two years’ achievements. The award will comprise cash amount of Rs 1 lakh, memento, scroll, blazer and a tie or a scarf.

**VIKRAMADITYA AWARD**

The annual award for an outstanding referee, umpire or judge would be given every year in the name of Vikramaditya Award. The award will comprise cash amount of Rs 2 lakh, memento, scroll, blazer and a tie or a scarf. An award for the one best performing physical education teacher who plays an exemplary role in promotion of sports in an educational institution will be given on annual basis. The award will comprise cash amount of Rs one lakh, memento, scroll, blazer and a tie or a scarf.

**AWARD FOR SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS**

The state government recognises that the sports associations play a very important role in the promotion of sports and will continue to support them in every manner in the interest of development of sports in the state. An award for the best performing sports association will be given on an annual basis. The amount of award would be Rs 5 lakh. The award money would be used by the association for the promotion of the concerned game.
Medal winners to get more

With a view to recognising the hard work put in by the players to bring laurels to the state, the government has announced a substantial increase in the award money given to winners of national and international sports events under the new sports policy.
The new BJP-led Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, knows exactly how to boost the confidence of its sportspersons to get the best out of them. With a view to recognising the hard work put in by the players to bring laurels to the state, the government has announced a substantial increase in the award money given to winners of national and international sports events under the new sports policy. In order to promote the akhada culture in Haryana, the government has decided to hold regular akhada competitions and increase the prize money of these competitions.

The amount of cash award for each member of position holder team will be equivalent to the amount to be given to the position holder of individual events. The scope of awards will be suitably increased or modified and notified by the state government from time to time. Not only this, the coaches of the medal winners will also be rewarded and for this, a separate scheme has been proposed.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR CASH AWARD**
The sportspersons should have represented the state of Haryana in the national team, in case of national level competitions. Players will be given awards for the performance of preceding financial year only.

No award for past performance or achievements will be considered. The cash award will only be given to those sportspersons who have represented the state of Haryana in any sports.

The sportsperson or parents of the sportsperson should be residents or domiciles of Haryana. In a particular or same sport, on winning first medal, full payment will be given, and on winning additional medals, half the amount of second winning medal will be given.

The employees who secure first, second and third position in recognised national or international competitions in post appointment achievements will also be given

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**Increase in the award money to outstanding sportspersons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Tournament / Championship</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Earlier Award Money</th>
<th>Revised Award Money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Olympics/ Paralympics Games</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>15,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Asian/ Para Asian Games</td>
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<td>3,00,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Silver</td>
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<td>50,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td>Tournament / Championship</td>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>Earlier Award Money</td>
<td>Revised Award Money</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>World University Games / Championship</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Youth Asian Games</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>7,00,000</td>
<td>7,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Asian / Commonwealth Championship / Cup</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>4,00,000</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Youth Commonwealth Games</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>5,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>SAF Games</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Silver</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>National Game / Para National Games</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bronze</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>National Championship / Para National Championship</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>3,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>National School Games</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>All India Inter University Tournaments / Championship</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>National Women Sports Festival</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Akhada culture forms an integral part of the lifestyle of people of Haryana. With a view to further promoting the culture, the government has also decided to organise “Akhada Competitions” regularly in the state. The cash awards for winners of state level akhara competitions have also been increased significantly.

The sportsperson securing first position at state level Akhara Kushti Competition will now get Rs 5,100 instead of Rs 500 given earlier. The sportsperson bagging second position will get Rs 3,100 instead of Rs 300 and the winner at the third position will get Rs 2,100 instead of Rs 200.

The sportsperson securing first position at State Level Kumar Dangal Competition will now get Rs 51,000 instead of Rs 21,000 given earlier. The sportsperson bagging second position will get Rs 31,000 instead of Rs 11,000 and the winner at the third position will get Rs 21,000 instead of Rs 5000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Tournament / Championship</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Earlier Award Money</th>
<th>Revised Award Money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>All India Rural Sports Tournament</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>International Veteran (Master) Athletics Championship (In all age group)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td>60,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>National Veteran (Master) Athletics Championship (in all age group)</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Special Olympic- World Games (International) for Mentally Challenged Sportspersons</td>
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<td>15,00,000</td>
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<td>10,00,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
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<td>Silver</td>
<td>75,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Special Olympic (National) for Mentally / Physically Challenged Sports Persons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Climber of Mount Everest</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
<td>11,00,000</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament / Championship</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Earlier Award Money</th>
<th>Revised Award Money</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All India Rural Sports Tournament</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Veteran (Master) Athletics Championship (In all age group)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Olympic (National) for Mentally / Physically Challenged Sports Persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climber of Mount Everest</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
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Sports icing on edu cake

Knowing full well the importance of sports in education, the Haryana Government has decided to make physical education and sports an integral part of the school curriculum and create adequate sports infrastructure in educational institutes.

Shweta Vashishta

Sports education in Haryana is set to get a dose of stimulation, including upgrading of curriculum, and students more playgrounds. The Haryana Government will set up one sports school in each district by converting one senior secondary school into a sports school.

This was disclosed by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, while unveiling the new sports policy. He said that the nature of Moti Lal Nehru Sports School, Rai, would be changed from public school with emphasis on sports to sports school with quality education. Moti Lal Nehru Sports School, Rai, may be renamed as Moti Lal Nehru Apex Sports School Rai.

RAI TO BE RUN AS SPORTS SCHOOL

The Sports Minister, Mr Anil Vij, said he wanted to bring sports revolution in Haryana. Presently, there is only one sports school at Rai in Sonipat which is also running as a public school. Now, Rai School would also be run as a sports school and more sports schools would be opened in the state.

A State Institute of Sports Development will be set up for training coaches, organising workshops, seminars and refresher courses for sports officials. Diploma and undergraduate education in sports and physical education will be strengthened to meet the needs of rules and modern sports equipment.

It will entail upgrading of curriculum and development of pedagogy. Possibilities would be explored for setting up a sports university and also to develop faculty of sports sciences and physical exercise in various universities of the state, particularly in the Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani.

Mr Manohar Lal said the Faculty of Sports Science would be introduced in every university of the state and synthetic athletics tracks would also be constructed. He announced to give a grant of Rs 1 crore for Sports Science Laboratory to be built in Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of Synthetic Athletic Track to be laid at the cost of about Rs 7 crore, and also that of Physical Education and Sports Science Faculty Building to be constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crore on the premises of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak.

Mr Manohar Lal said that the state government would take steps to popularise sports among children and make schools and neighbourhood its hub. “It will encourage teachers and parents to see participation in sports as vital for the development of key personality differentiator like commitment, perseverance, collaboration and commitment among children. These traits are central to their successful adjustment in adult life and promote in them the spirit of innovation and enterprise”, he added.

The government will require schools, colleges and neighbourhood to have playable sports facilities and dedicated hours for sports. It will also ensure that there are teams and individual players and they get sufficient number of competitions at junior and grass-roots level, and opportunities to graduate to higher level of competition on the strength of their performances.

MOTIVATING PLAYERS

The state government will also ensure that these competitions are well funded, have corporate backing, carry decent award money and are well publicised to motivate players to give their best.

The sports policy reiterates the critical importance of sports and games in educational institutions to
the achievement of the policy’s objectives. It seeks to get physical education and sports made an integral part of the curriculum up to the higher secondary level and make available adequate number of trained physical education and sports teachers through a time-bound programme.

Physical instructors in schools will be engaged and at least one acre of land will be made available for a primary school and 2.5 acres of land for an upper primary school for use as playgrounds. Guidelines will be put in place for the recruitment of physical education instructors. Provision will be made for developing playfields and providing sports equipment for recognition of schools and colleges.

Also steps would be taken to encourage the managements of educational institutions in both the public and private sectors to allocate adequate resources in a time-bound manner for infrastructure, equipment and trained staff to provide all students with a minimum prescribed standard of facilities for a minimum number of selected sports and games.

**OPTIMUM USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES**

The managements will also be encouraged to optimally utilise their sports facilities by making them available on commercial terms during off-hours or week-ends or vacations to local communities/youth/sports clubs for regular practice, or to reputed players to run coaching academies, or to reputed organisations to conduct tournaments and other competitions.

Playfields would be developed in all schools and colleges in the state. At least one game facility in elementary schools, two games facilities in secondary schools and three games facilities in senior secondary schools would be provided. At least five games facilities would be provided in all the colleges. Multipurpose halls in the colleges would be remodeled for use as indoor stadium for games, wherever feasible.

Requisite sports infrastructure would be created in all the universities of the state. National level sports facilities in at least five games would be created or upgraded in the universities. The state government would support universities in upgradation of their sports infrastructures either from its own sources or making funds available from the Central Government.

Each university will have high quality infrastructure such as astro-turf, synthetic track etc. Faculty of physical exercise and sports sciences would be opened in the universities. Sports labs would also be set up in the universities wherever feasible.

The PPP model would be used to mobilise additional resources for development and maintenance of sports infrastructure.

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*The Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, laying the foundation stone of Synthetic Athletic Track at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. Sports Minister Anil Vij is also seen in the picture*
Awards only for the domiciles

In order to get an award, the sportspersons must have represented the state in the nationals and should be domiciles of the state.

Saurabh Duggal

The Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar, has come up with a rule that will be a game-changer: no cash award for medal-winning sportsperson from outside the state or who haven’t represented the state at the national level. According to the new sports policy --- ‘Haryana Physical Activities and Sports Policy-2015’ --- the sportsperson must have represented Haryana and should be a resident of the state.

NO REWARD TO OUTSIDERS

Earlier, because of the hefty cash incentives for the international medals – Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics --, many sportspersons from outside the state had got cash incentives worth crores. They had never represented the state in the nationals and didn’t have the state domicile, but because of their distant connections with the state, they made their claim and were eventually benefited. But the current Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP government has made it very clear that no reward will be given to the outside sportspersons.

The immediate losers will be ace shuttler Saina Nehwal and London Olympics medalist shooter Gagan Narang, who were earlier given cash awards by the previous state government, led by the former chief minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

They will not be considered for the awards by the current state government for their medals in the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games as they have never represented the state in the nationals nor do they have a state domicile. While Nehwal was in line for the cash award for a team bronze medal won in the 2014 edition of the Asian Games, Narang’s 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games cash award is stuck with the government.

The previous Hooda government has been accused of being generous with sportspersons who had thin connection with the state by virtue of either being born here or their forefathers’ having state domicile. The underlying aim allegedly was to jack up state’s contribution in the country’s medal tally.

Even before the release of the new policy, the state Sports Minister Anil Vij made it very clear that there would be no provision of cash awards for the outsiders.

“The cash incentive is for players who are from Haryana and represent the state,” said Vij. Many sportspersons, who hail from the state, raised an objection over outsiders getting financial benefits from the state exchequer’s money. Moreover they (outsiders) are also claiming cash incentives from the respective states of which they are having domiciles.

DISTANT CONNECTION BARRED

“We are not going to entertain the ones whose grandparents used to live in Haryana or the ones who seem to have a distant connection with the state,” Vij added.

The previous government has so far bestowed cash awards for the 2010 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, 2012 London Olympics and 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, in which all the players who are not from Haryana got cash awards worth crores.

Eligibility and conditions for cash award

- The sports persons must have represented Haryana in the national team, in case of national level competitions.
- Players shall be given awards for the performance of preceding financial year only. No award for past performance/achievements will be considered.
- Applications should be received through District Sports & Youth Affairs Officer concerned.
- The cash award will only be given to those sportspersons who has represented the state of Haryana in any sports.
- The sportsperson or parents of the sportsperson should be resident/domicile of Haryana. He/she must submit Haryana resident Certificate (Domicile Certificate) from competent Authority along with application.
- In a particular/same sports, first medal--full payment and on additional medals--half amount of second winning medal.
Sports recap 2014

The sports stars who stole the show in 2014 with their achievements were Sardar Singh, the Indian men’s hockey team skipper; discus thrower Seema Antil; and wrestlers Yogeshwar Dutt and Vinesh Phogat.
Sportspersons accounted for one-third of the country’s total medal tally in the Games. In the tally of 57 medals in Incheon, the state had its contribution in 19.

The players hailing from the state mainly shined in wrestling, shooting, boxing, athletics, kabaddi and hockey. The sports stars who stole the show in 2014 with their achievements were Sardar Singh, the Indian men’s hockey team skipper, who led India to a gold win in the Asian Games after a gap of 16 years; discus thrower Seema Antil, who became the only Indian athlete to win medals in three successive CWGs; and wrestlers Yogeshwar Dutt and Vinesh Phogat.

**Sardar Singh: Age 28, Sant Nagar village in Sirsa district**

2014 was a great year for the Indian hockey. The men’s team not only made it to the podium finish in both the Commonwealth and Asian Games, but also the team’s gold medal in the continental games (Asian Games) earned it berth for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The team led by Sirsa’s Sardar Singh ended the 16-year-old Asian Games gold medal drought in Incheon. The last time the Indian men’s team won gold in the Asian Games was during the 1998 Bangkok Games.

Before Incheon Games, Sardar also led the team to a silver medal performance in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games (July). And it was during his captaincy only that touring India registered its first-ever test series win against Australia. In the recently held Champions Trophy --- where the world’s top eight teams competed --- India finished fourth.

Sardar is the only player in the current Indian squad, who was named in the world XI for two consecutive years. He was appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Haryana Police for his earlier sporting achievements.

“2014 will always remain a memorable year in my sporting career. I hope the momentum will continue in 2015 and I am able to win medal for the country in the 2016 Rio Olympics,” says Sardar, who will be playing in the Hockey India League starting from January 22, 2015.

**Seema Antil Punia:**

**Age 28, Sonipat**

In the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Seema with her season’s best performance of 61.61m clinched silver medal in the discus throw event and with this triumph, she became the only Indian athlete to win medals in three consecutive Commonwealth Games. In 2006 Melbourne Games, she won silver medal and in 2010 New Delhi Games, she won bronze.

Seema continued with her winning
streak and stunned everyone by her gold medal showing in the Incheon Asian Games — her first continental games medal.

Seema Antil hogged the limelight by winning the bronze in the Junior World Championship in 2002 and later on went on to represent the country in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Since then, she is among the country’s top women discus thrower. She missed the berth in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was not in her form for at least a year. But in 2010, she was again in action and since then, adding more and more medals to her kitty.

But as far her sporting career is concerned, 2014 remained the best year for her so far. “Asian Games gold is my biggest achievement and I want to take it further,” says Seema, who is married to Ankush Punia, currently her coach. She is employed with the Haryana Police.

Yogeshwar Dutt (wrestling):
Age 32, Sonipat

After 2012 London Olympics bronze medal triumph, year 2014 also turned out to be a fruitful year for the Sonipat grappler. After winning gold in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Yogeshwar Dutt went on to end the Asian Games gold medal drought by winning the top honours at the Incheon (South Korea) Games. The last time an Indian wrestler won gold at the continental games was way back in 1986 at Seoul (Kartar Singh).

Yogeshwar is one of the finest wrestlers the country has ever produced. He made his Olympic debut in 2004 in Athens and later on missed the medal by a whisker in the 2008 Beijing Games. Finally he tasted success in the London Games.

Yogeshwar, who was appointed DSP in the Haryana Police after his quarter final finish in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is currently undergoing his police training at Madhuban Police Academy.

“It’s been for years that we were unable to win gold in the Asian Games, so I am happy that I was able to do it for the country in Incheon. With gold in both Commonwealth and Asian Games, I can count 2014 as one of my best sporting years. Or I can say it is my second-best year, next to 2012 when I won medal in the London Olympics,” says Yogeshwar.

Vinesh Phogat: Age 21, Bilali village in Bhiwani district

Vinesh, the younger sibling of the famous wrestling sisters of Phogat clan, Bilali village in Bhiwani district, has joined the ranks of elder sisters Geeta and Babita. After both Geeta and Babita making their names in the international women’s wrestling scenario, Vinesh is the third of the five wrestling sisters to make it big in an international arena.

She won the gold medal in her Commonwealth Games debut at Glasgow. In the same games, Babita too won the gold. Later on both the sisters competed in the Incheon Asian Games and there, Vinesh won the bronze medal.

“The year 2014 has given me a platform to establish myself in the international arena. And winning medals in both the games is a real morale booster and I hope to win more and more medals for the country,” says Vinesh. “My immediate target is to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics and then win a medal there,” she adds.

The writer is Senior Sports Journalist with Hindustan Times, Chandigarh
Haryana woos and vows NRIs

The Haryana Chief Minister has made a strong pitch for investment by the NRIs, offering them land, hassle-free clearances, adequate and quality power, and necessary environment to do business.

Pravati Bharatiya Diwas at Gandhinagar in Gujarat offered Haryana an opportunity to showcase and sell the state as the land of enterprise and opportunities for investment to the non-resident Indians (NRIs). Needless to emphasise, the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, and his team made good use of it by rolling out the red carpet for the prospective investors.

Haryana participated in the annual mega event after a gap of three years and it was the first attempt by the new BJP Government. Making a strong pitch, the Chief Minister urged the NRIs to come and invest in Haryana, the land of great opportunities, and assured them land, hassle-free clearances, adequate and quality power, and necessary environment for business.

“I invite you to come to Haryana, invest in the sector of your choice, and be partners in growth. Come and invest today to reap a bountiful tomorrow. When you take the call, you will feel wanted and shall find us waiting,” he assured the assembled NRIs.

An Ideal Destination

Elaborating on what made Haryana an ideal destination for investment, the Chief Minister said the state surrounds the national capital, New Delhi, on three sides. Besides impressive infrastructure, investor-friendly climate, pollution-free environment, excellent law-and-order situation and modern communication network, it boasts of world class residential and commercial accommodation. All these make Haryana a perfect destination for investment.

Committed to harnessing the potential Haryana offers, the state government is formulating a new industrial policy to spur growth and give industrialisation a decisive push.

OCCASION: Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
OPPORTUNITY: Showcase Haryana as the land of enterprise and opportunities for investment.
OUTCOME: Haryana is closer to the prospect of investment worth Rs 26,000 crore coming to the state.

The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, with the Union Minister of External Affairs, Mrs Sushma Swaraj, the Gujarat Chief Minister, Mrs Anandiben Patel, at Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Gandhinagar
Captains of industry and NRIs are welcome to make suggestions. “We value your views; your expectations will serve us as guidelines; and you will always remain our source of strength”, he said.

The Chief Minister said that playing the facilitator, the Haryana Government had made special provisions for the NRIs through policy and institutional mechanism. Up to 10 per cent of the industrial plots in each industrial estate, set up by the HSIIDC, are reserved for allotment to NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and for units with 33 per cent or more FDI in total investment.

Besides, a Foreign Investment & NRI Cell has also been set up for providing guidance and advisory services to potential NRI and PIO investors and addressing the problems faced by them related to property, marital discord and law and order, etc. “We have set up a state stall here (Gandhinagar) and you can get all relevant information regarding the state initiatives”, he said.

POWER GENERATION UP

To invigorate development, the state has foreseen the need for augmenting power generation and availability. Haryana today has total available capacity of nearly 10,000 Mega Watt. “My focus is also on providing seamless operations in supply of power and ease in getting power connections”, the Chief Minister said.

The 25-million-strong Indian diaspora, spread across every major region of the world, has become a formidable global force. They represent a truly great resource in intellectual, technical, scientific, professional and entrepreneurial excellence. “You are the flag-bearers of India’s ethos and values around the world and your success has generated a positive impact on India throughout the world. The progress achieved by you has impressed one and all. You indeed are the true ambassadors of our great country”, the Chief Minister said.

Opening a broad window on Haryana for the diaspora, Mr Manohar Lal said the state had made rapid strides since its creation in 1966 and carved a niche for itself. “Geographically, we are a small state, accounting for just 1.3 per cent of the total area of the country, but we contribute nearly 3.4 per cent to the national economy. The state, which was largely an agrarian economy initially, is now one of the most industrialised states in the country, with the manufacturing and services sectors contributing about 85 per cent to the GSDP. The economic growth rate of nearly 6.9 per cent of the state is higher than the national growth rate of under 5 per cent during 2013-14”, he added.

HARYANA SHOWS THE WAY

Haryana leads in the manufacture of a number of products like passenger cars, two-wheelers, cranes, earthmovers, tractors, bicycles, sanitary ware, white goods, footwear etc. It is home to a large number of multi-national companies and there are more than 1,000 projects with foreign technical or financial collaboration. Multi-national companies like Suzuki, Honda, IBM, Harley Davidson, Hollister, Agilent, Nestle, Harvel, Siemens, Denso, Yakult, Danone, JCB, to name only a few, have set up their base in Haryana.

“We want to offer Haryana as a corporate capital, as an industrial destination, and, as a residential and entertainment centre while retaining its edge in manufacturing, services and knowledge sectors. It is going to be Destination Haryana all the way during the coming years. A clear vision, political will, good governance, empathy, empowerment, partnerships and creativity will be the keywords to drive the future success of Haryana”, he assured the gathering.

The state government is working hard to promote Haryana as a vibrant and competitive investment destination internationally. In line with the Government of India’s ‘Make in India’ and ‘Shramev Jayate’ initiatives, Haryana is laying great emphasis on labour-intensive manufacturing. With emphasis on skill development, the government aims at preparing the youth for jobs in the industrial sector, especially in the micro small and medium enterprises, both in rural and urban areas.

The focus of the new government is on creation of global-standard infrastructure. “We are constantly striving to improve connectivity, ensure adequate power and water supply and create social infrastructure like schools, hospitals, recreation centres etc. A Global Corridor planned along the KMP Expressway, which is under construction, offers new opportunities for development of Theme Hubs”, the Chief Minister said.

Referring to connectivity, he said that several Metro rail projects have been undertaken, including extension of Delhi Metro to Gurgaon, Faridabad-Ballabgarh and Bahadurgarh. Regional Rapid Transit System Corridors connecting Delhi-Gurgaon-Rewari-Alwar; Delhi-Sonipat-Panipat and Delhi-Rohtak-Hisar are on anvil. Faridabad-Gurgaon Metro is also on anvil.

CM offers to host next PBD in Gurgaon

The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, has offered to organise next ‘Pravasi Bharatiya Divas’ in Gurgaon.

Speaking at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas at Gandhinagar in Gujarat, he said, “Located just five kilometers from the International Airport of New Delhi, Gurgaon in Haryana is today counted among the highly developed cities of the country. Ultramodern facilities of livelihood are available in this city. It is my humble request to the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to give us the opportunity to organise the next ‘Pravasi Bharatiya Divas’ in Gurgaon keeping in view the ultra-modern facilities available there”, he said.
Coming, investment worth Rs 26k crore

Haryana Review Bureau

The expected has happened. The indulgent effort made by a team of dedicated officers led and guided by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas at Ahmedabad in Gujarat, has brought Haryana closer to the prospect of investment worth Rs 26,000 crore coming to the state in the next four to five years.

SESSIONS WITH ENTREPRENEURS

Committed to making good the opportunity offered by the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to bring industry and investment to Haryana, the Chief Minister had three separate sessions with the entrepreneurs of Gujarat and the NRIs in Gandhinagar over two days. He issued specific instructions to concerned officials of the Industries Department to talk to them individually, answer their queries, work out details and clinch investment offers. The net outcome brings closer to investment worth Rs 26,000 crore.

While some of those engaged by the Chief Minister and officers evinced keen interest in investing in Haryana in the fields of solar energy, common effluent treatment plants, solid waste management plants, integrated warehousing and processing, others showed keenness in setting up cold chains, food parks and inland container depot of Air Cargo. Apart from this, Amul has also expressed the desire to take up expansion of its existing plants.

Specific offers were made by the entrepreneurs and NRIs at a meeting presided over by Mr Devender Singh, Haryana Principal Secretary, Industries, at Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Ahmedabad. Also present were MLA Mr Harwinder Kalyan and Managing Director, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) Mr Vineet Garg.

At the meeting, the Chairman of National Solar Energy Federation of India, Mr Pranab Mehta, on behalf of the solar power producers, offered to set up 5,000 MW solar power plants in the state in the next five years provided land was made available at concessional rates. One such power plant costs Rs 5 to 6 crore.

The Director of Kunwarji Group, Mr Bhavin Mehta, offered to invest Rs 900 crore in the state in the fields of integrated warehousing and processing and Rs 125 crore in setting up cold chains. Besides, the group also showed keen interest in developing food parks in the state. Mr Devender Singh invited them to visit the food parks set up at Rai in Sonepat district, Badhi and Rohtak.

Similarly, Chairman of Chiripal Group of Companies, Mr Ved Parkash Chiripal, has offered to set up unit for manufacturing polyester film used for food packing over 15 acres of land near the Panipat Refinery at a cost of Rs 600 crore. Apart from this, the group also wants to develop industrial parks in the state.

SETTING UP TREATMENT PLANTS

Mr Shailesh Patwari from Narada Enviro Projects Limited has expressed keen interest in setting up common effluent treatment plants and solid waste management plants in different industrial estates in the state. One such plant costs about 20 crore.

Likewise, Amul has expressed the desire to expand its dairy business in the state. At present, the milk giant has four units out of which two have already come up and the remaining are being set up. The GSEC Group has also offered to invest in Haryana in setting up an inland container depot.

Mr Shankarbhai R. Patel of Unique Dye Chem has shown keen interest in setting up India International Trade Centre in Haryana on the pattern of Yiwu in China. This project would involve an investment of about 10,000 crore on 500 acres of land.

Mr Devender Singh said that Mr A.K Maggu, NRI, had called on the Chief Minister yesterday and offered to tie up the educational institutes of Haryana with the best foreign educational institutes of skill development.
Industrial policy to be simplified

The Haryana Government has decided to simplify and modify the procedures of its industrial policy in order to provide a facilitative environment to the entrepreneurs, especially to medium and small industries in the state. This was stated by the Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Mr Devender Singh, while interacting with the delegates of Gujarat and Haryana during the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations held at Ahmedabad.

AN INTERACTION WITH DELEGATES
More than 30 delegates of various industrial groups of both the states participated in the interaction. On this occasion, Mr Singh assured them that efforts would be made to arrange a meeting with the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, and Industries Minister Capt Abhimanyu at the earliest. While lauding the role of entrepreneurs in the development of economy, Mr Singh said that there was no dearth of energy in entrepreneurs but there was a need to facilitate them by simplifying the policies and procedures.

He said that recently the state government had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Managing Director, HSIIDC which would hold meetings at regular intervals with the entrepreneurs to get their feedback for drafting new industrial policy, the first draft of which was expected to be finalised by March 31, 2015. He said that the schedule of these meetings would soon be issued to the delegates.

He also sought their suggestions for the new industrial policy so as to make it more liberal and entrepreneur-friendly. He also exhorted them to study the best policies and practices for industry in various states so that the best clauses of the said policy could be incorporated in the Haryana industrial policy.

Efforts would also be made to provide facilities of self-certification, third party verification and deemed approval to the entrepreneurs. “To ensure this, we have studied the model of states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan,” said the Principal Secretary. He also advocated for providing digital platform to industrialists in order to minimise their physical visits to the government offices as well as to provide them online facilities for submission of composite application forms and obtaining approvals and sanctions.

MAKE IN HARYANA
He reminded the delegates that recently the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, had addressed a day long workshop in which he had suggested ways to realise the concept of ‘Make in India’. This would be would be implemented in the state as ‘Make in Haryana’.

He said that following the path shown by the Prime Minister, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal was also working with the motto ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.’

The Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Mr Devender Singh, interacting with the delegates of Gujarat and Haryana during the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas at Ahmedabad
Make good CST loss, pleads FM

In its pre-Budget wish-list, the Haryana Government has asked the Centre to give full CST compensation 2013-14 onwards, relax the fiscal deficit limit to 3.5 per cent of GSDP and put premium on growth and efficiency in the devolution of taxes.

Swati Sethi

Budget time is wish-list time. States, representative chambers of trade and industry, and individual groups draw their wish-lists to be presented to the Union Finance Minister before he gets down to the strenuous task of stitching up seams of the Union Budget. The Haryana Finance Minister, Capt Abhimanyu, has done his bit to voice the demands of the new BJP Government, led by Mr Manohar Lal.

DEMANDS MADE TO CENTRE

The Haryana Government has asked the Centre to give full CST compensation to states 2013-14 onwards, relax their fiscal deficit limit to 3.5 per cent of GSDP, increase borrowing limits, encourage public expenditure on infra and put premium on growth and efficiency in the devolution of taxes.

Capt Abhimanyu has also demanded implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report, creation of a buffer stock of basmati, tax exemption for poultry on the pattern of farm income and loans for the segment at cheaper rates of interest. It also wants water to be declared national property, and immediate steps to link all the rivers of the country. The state wants the Central Government to implement ambitious schemes for development to provide employment opportunities for the youth.

These were among the main demands made by the Finance Minister while speaking at the pre-Budget meeting of state Finance Ministers with the Union Finance Minister, Mr Arun Jaitley, in New Delhi. On the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Capt Abhimanyu said that almost all states had agreed on the issue after the Union Government assured that no state would bear any loss as a sequel to its implementation.

Speaking at the pre-Budget meeting of Finance Ministers of states and Union Territories with the Union Finance Minister, Mr Arun Jaitley, in New Delhi today, Haryana Finance Minister, Capt Abhimanyu, said that the method of devolution of taxes should be devised to encourage growth and fiscal discipline. Negative weightage should not restrict allocation of funds to states like Haryana which have invested in economic growth, he added.

POSITIVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Congratulating Mr Jaitley for creating a positive economic environment which is fostering macroeconomic stability and growth in the country, he said, “The future looks more positive as inflation has been tamed, bringing substantial relief to people. I am convinced that under Jaitley ji’s able leadership the Indian economy shall now grow faster and attain new heights.”

Capt Abhimanyu

Arun Jaitley

The new Government in Haryana has been elected with a clear popular mandate. It aims to live up to the aspirations and expectations of the people who desire accelerated development, expanded opportunities for employment and better quality of life. “The present fiscal health of the Haryana Government is not robust enough to meet these vast expectations and we hope for your support in this regard through policies and budgetary initiatives”, he said, building up case for necessary steps in the Union Budget.

Capt Abhimanyu asked him to encourage public expenditure in infrastructure development; increase states’ borrowing limits to facilitate use of available growth opportunities.
and earmark specific market borrowing limit for infrastructure related initiatives. The fiscal deficit limit for states may be relaxed to 3.5 per cent of the GSDP to channelise additional resources to states for at least three years, he demanded.

Haryana has a location advantage as it abuts the nation’s capital. There is a huge potential for growth for the manufacturing and services sector. Haryana can tap this potential by improving the business environment and the ease of doing business to facilitate the growth of industry, trade and commerce. While these initiatives will take some time to fructify into new enterprises, the exiting enterprises should be encouraged to expand operations and give more direct employment. “I would therefore request you to consider providing tax deferment incentives for business enterprises and industries if they exceed their present employment index to an equal level,” the Finance Minister said.

The 14th Finance Commission Report has been received and a new scheme of devolution would be worked out on the basis of its recommendation. “I hope the method of devolution will be more encouraging to growth and fiscal discipline and negative weightage does not restrict allocation of funds for States like Haryana which have invested in economic growth in the past”, Capt Abhimanyu said.

REVOLUTIONARY GST BILL

Congratulating the FM for the revolutionary step of introducing the GST Bill in Parliament, he expressed the hope that the new era would result in a spurt in economic activities and a transparent and easy tax structure while protecting the interests of states which have so far led the manufacturing and intra-national trade.

The NDA Government has taken the step of far reaching consequence in deciding to replace the Planning Commission with a representative and federally responsive body. This step will become more productive if the present system of devolution of central funds to states becomes more rational and allows substantial decentralised planning. “I propose that 50 per cent of all sectoral central sector scheme (CSS) funds be released as flexi-funds in 2015-16 and in three years the entire allocation be given to states as sectoral resources, giving them freedom to formulate schemes to suit their respective needs for each sector”, Capt Abhimanyu said.

The future devolution of the Central Plan Assistance should be on a formula improved upon the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula. Time has come to revisit the efficacy of transfer of financial resources under Gadgil-Mukherjee formula which is loaded in favour of population and backwardness and handicaps transfer of resources to better performing states like Haryana.

MANUFACTURING HUB

With a view to introducing GST in the country, the rate of GST has been gradually reduced from 4 per cent to 2 per cent. The current GST rate of 2 per cent was applied from June 1, 2008. Haryana is an important manufacturing and exporting state and a substantial part of its tax revenue comes from CST. Haryana has invested massive land and capital resources for creation of manufacturing infrastructure which is contributing greatly to the national economy.

Maintenance of this manufacturing base requires huge expenditure every year. It was assured by the Central Government that states would be fully compensated for the loss on account of the reduction in the rate of CST. No compensation has been given to Haryana in respect of the financial years 2011-12 to 2013-14. Besides, an arrear of about Rs 750 crore is yet to be paid in respect of the years prior to 2011-12, Capt Abhimanyu pointed out.

“The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers had unanimously agreed last year that 75 per cent of the compensation in respect of 2011-12 and 50 per cent of the compensation in respect of 2012-13 would be paid to the states. As per the agreed formula about Rs 4,150 crore is due to be given to Haryana. I request the Union Finance Minister to make a suitable provision for releasing the CST compensation to the states pertaining to 2011-12 and 2012-13 in the Union Budget for 2015-16”, Capt Abhimanyu said, adding that full CST compensation may be provided 2013-14 onwards as the states are suffering a heavy loss of revenue due to reduction in CST rates from 4 per cent to 2 per cent.

The Haryana Government undertakes the task of facilitating socio-economic development of women, Scheduled Castes and other backward sections through group specific finance corporations for income generating schemes, job-oriented training, education loans and related activities. These corporations have run up NPAs and losses and need to be recapitalised to resume activities.

Haryana wish-list

- Full CST compensation to states 2013-14 onwards
- Relaxation in fiscal deficit limit to 3.5 per cent of GSDP
- Increase borrowing limits of states
- Step up public expenditure on infra and premium on growth and efficiency in the devolution of taxes.
- Implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report
- Creation of a buffer stock of basmati
- Tax exemption for poultry on the pattern of farm income and loans for the segment at cheaper rates of interest.
- Declare water national property and take steps to link all rivers of the country
- Ambitious schemes for development to provide employment opportunities for the youth.
Heritage Fest in varied hues

Photo feature by Vinay Malik
Kalka MLA Latika Sharma inaugurating the fest

A beautiful rangoli
An exquisite work of metal sculpture
Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki lighting a lamp to inaugurate the cultural programme on the concluding day. Looking on are Kalka MLA Latika Sharma and Additional Principal Secretary to CM Sumitra Mishra.
Haryanvi folk dancers giving a performance
Woody Passion

Woodcraft being his forte, Bhagwan Singh Ahlawat, an artist based in Rohtak district, creates stunning works of art out of driftwood.

Anjana Dutta

Driftwood is an ordinary thing, but in the hands of a skilled craftsman it can be transformed into an infinite variety of beautiful shapes.

That’s what Bhagwan Singh Ahlawat, an artist based at Gochhi in Rohtak district, is doing. Using only salvaged materials like driftwood, roots, burls and natural found woods, he creates stunning works of art. An unassuming person with a pleasant smile, Bhagwan Singh is a lover of nature. Woodcraft is his forte.

PASSION FOR WOOD

It was a sheer passion for wood that he started collecting simple, ordinary pieces of wood and turning them into amazing works of art as his creative outlet. Embellishing them with waste materials like stones, tins, marbles and shells, he fashions them into
pleasing and appealing objet d’art. Infused with refinement and vitality, Bhagwan Singh’s driftwood work is full of intense expressiveness. The dynamism of his work lies in its inherent tactile qualities, its volume, mass and its aesthetic appeal. As you walk around to have a look at his work, you feel the need to run your hands over them, and to lift and hold them. The viewer, therefore, is drawn by its dynamic stillness and its contemplative serenity which is immensely rewarding.

Human forms, animals, flower vases have been cut out from the trunks and roots of trees. His driftwood pieces of a horse and the human forms are particularly attractive. His polished sculptures have a luminous intensity that lends them a timeless quality.

CONVEYING HUMAN EFFECT
His heads are a form of portraiture that conveys the total human effect. Burgeoning vitality surges through his work. His heads expand and elongate in the rhythmic contours of sculptures presenting a vibrant unity in expressive content. His refined and subtle modulation of tonal values, depths of texture and the control he exercises over the planes and spatial volumes of surface contours is striking.

Fluted lines, swooping angles and contours lend an upsurge of power to his small figures. The artist has honed his technical skills inexorably. His wooden sculptures have such a living presence that it is difficult to walk past them without responding to its organic vitality.

Bhagwan Singh is a natural artist and an energetic driftwood hunter. “Whenever I come across any wonderful piece of wood, I pick it up. If I feel that I can do something with it, I bring it home. The result is these numerous pieces of wood,” he remarks. “After stripping away the wood, I start working on the process till I create something out of it,” he says.

“The cutting and curving of a piece of wood is a work of art and many times a labour of love,” he says further. “But it is a simple and useful craft which requires no special skill. It is, in fact, the art of a creative mind. It is possible to achieve simple results by a good art sense.” he explains.

“It may take a long time till it takes a final shape with which I am fully satisfied. Sometimes I retain the original shape of a piece of wood without making many changes in it. It depends upon its mass appeal,” adds the artist.

“Traditionally, sculpture has, of course, played a decisive role in the evolution of ancient Indian art. An artist may work in any medium, sculpture forms the backbone of his work. In the contemporary situation, awareness of driftwood sculptures as a powerful art form is gradually gaining ground in the country. It is a fascinating art,” he elaborates.

Bhagwan Singh has participated in a series of art exhibitions to display his works to give the art-aware public a well-defined perspective into the existing and ongoing trends in driftwood as an art form where his work was widely acclaimed. A recipient of several state awards, he is one of Haryana’s foremost artists and has been featured in various newspapers and TV for his distinctive work.

PEOPLE BEHIND SUCCESS
He owes all his success to his parents – his father, Chet Ram, and mother, Sundo Devi, who after observing his obsession with art encouraged him to pursue it. He is thankful to his uncle, Major Jai Narain who got him admission in the Art and Craft Institute in Shimla. “Without their co-operation, I would not have been able to achieve anything in life. What I am today, it is because of them only,” he concludes.

The writer is a freelance journalist
DO YOU KNOW?

- Venus is the brightest planet in our sky and can sometimes be seen with the naked eye.
- Earth has more exposed water than land. Three quarters of the Earth is covered by water.
- Mars is the home of "Olympus Mons", the largest volcano found in the solar system. It stands about 27 kilometers high with a crater 81 kilometers wide.
- Between Mars and Jupiter, is a Dwarf Planet known as Ceres. It was discovered in 1801. It is the smallest dwarf planet discovered in our universe.
- Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system, but it spins very quickly on its axis. A day on Jupiter lasts only 9 hours and 55 minutes.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard."

-Tim Notke

Struggles of our life

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn’t know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire.

Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked. “Daughter, what do you see?” “Potatoes, eggs and coffee,” she hastily replied.

“Look closer”, he said, “and touch the potatoes.” She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

“Father, what does this mean?” she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity-the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

“Which one are you?” he asked his daughter. “When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?”

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about leaning, adopting and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.

(A net pick)
A: Are you getting the magazine every month?
Yes ☐ No ☐

B: Do you get it on time, say by the 15th of every month?
Yes ☐ No ☐

C: How do you rate Haryana Review from the standpoint of get-up; lay-out; design and production?
Very good ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐

D: How do you find the contents of the magazine?
Excellent ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Unsatisfactory ☐

E: Does Haryana Review do justice to the readers by providing information about the state?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t say ☐

F: Any suggestions for improvement?
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Note: Having filled your feedback, please cut the perforated page, fold it and mail it to us at the address given at the back of the page. You need not affix the postage stamp.

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The Chief Editor,
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Postage will be paid by the addressee.
Influenza A (H1N1)

Protect yourself
Swine Flu is a new influenza virus causing illness in people

Symptoms
Running nose with fever > 101° C, should put you on alert

Wash hands

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Protect yourself

Cover nose and mouth while sneezing

Exercise eat balanced diet

Fever and other symptoms may include:
- Cough and sore throat
- Body aches and headache
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fatigue & chills

High risk group
- People with chronic medical conditions
- Above 65 years or older
- Children younger than 5 years old
- Pregnant women

Do's
- Avoid crowded places
- Stay more than an arm's length from persons afflicted with flu
- Get plenty of sleep
- Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food

Don'ts
- Shake hands or hug in greeting
- Spit in public
- Take medicines without consulting a physician

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE H1N1 FLU
- Visit the nearest H1N1 Screening Centre or Government Health Institutions
- Stay at home, if advised by the doctor.
- Do not travel or go to work or school
- Avoid close contact with others for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours whichever is longer

DON'T PANIC OR SPREAD RUMOURS
VISIT THE NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
Live in peace

Photograph by Vinay Malik