3 big-ticket projects in 3 days

1. NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
2. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
3. CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR FRUITS
HISTORIC DECISION OF HARYANA GOVERNMENT

HOUSING FACILITY FOR 2 LAKH POOR FAMILIES LIVING IN RURAL AREAS

ROOF FOR ALL
HOUSING FACILITY FOR ALL IN THE STATE
HARYANA’S ENDEAVOUR- HOME FOR HOMELESS

PRIYADARSHINI AWAAS YOJNA
LAUNCHED
BY
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA
Chief Minister, Haryana

Development & Panchayat Department, Haryana
Scoring a hat-trick

Besides emerging as the launch pad of some of the path-breaking Central Government initiatives, Haryana boasts of cradling more than 20 key Central projects. The kitty swelled in May with the state getting three big-ticket projects in as many days. This speaks volumes about the proximity the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, enjoys to the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the UPA Chairperson, Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Besides, it holds a mirror to the esteem in which the Central Government holds the Haryana Government.

The three projects Haryana got are: the first defence university of the country in Gurgaon; the second National Institute of Design (NID) in Kurukshetra; and the Centre of Excellence for Fruits in Sirsa. While stones of the first two were laid by the Prime Minister and the Union Minister for Industry and Textiles, Mr Anand Sharma, the last one was inaugurated by the Chief Minister in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador. Needless to emphasise, the defence university will put Haryana on the global map.

The cover story in this issue of Haryana Review turns focus on all the Central Government projects in Haryana with spotlight on the three new and big gains; how those set up have and the new ones shall, benefit Haryana and its people.

In our continuing campaign to cover the districts in their varied hues, this time we bring our readers how Hisar, cited in history as one of the five cities belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation, has come to host three universities and agricultural and veterinary research centres which promise the youth of the state rich career prospects.

Take a trip back to the ancient times by visiting Tosham in our tourism segment. Read about the youngest person from the state to scale the Mount Everest, 17-year old Shubham Kaushik, in the sports column.

In the art and culture section, see how artists capture the mood of the monsoon in their works. The rainy season having set in, we bring our readers on the potpourri page some health tips to be followed during the next three months.
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3 big-ticket projects in three days

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Three big-ticket Central Government projects in three days (May 21-23)! Sounds great and big for any state, and more so, for the tiny state of Haryana which accounts for only 2.09 per cent of the country’s population, and occupies 1.34 per cent of the geographical area of the country. These are: the Indian National Defence University (INDU), the first university of its kind in the country and third in the world after USA and China; second National Institute of Design (NID); and the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, in Sirsa.

Bagging them in the face of stiff competition offered by more progressive and advanced cousin-states, and having none less than the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the Union Minister for Industry and Textiles, Mr Anand Sharma, around to lay stones of two projects, speaks volumes about two things. First, the level at which the Centre places the Haryana Government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda; and secondly, the proximity Mr Hooda enjoys to the powers that be in New Delhi.

While the stone of INDU was laid by the Prime Minister in Binola village of Gurgaon District, that of NID was laid by Mr Anand Sharma in Kurukshetra. Offering higher studies in defence, the INDU will make Haryana a centre of global attraction; and the NID, second of its kind to be set up in Haryana, will meet industry’s needs.
of designs in north India. The third project, the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, set up with Israeli help in Sirsa, has revolutionised and redefined the concept of horticulture.

Besides these, Haryana boasts of about 22 other Central projects most of which have come up. Apart from bringing Haryana name and fame, these have brought massive investment and offered job opportunities to thousands of jobless youths in the state.

**LAUNCH PAD FOR CENTRAL SCHEMES**

Besides playing host to Central projects, Haryana has also emerged as a favourite ground for the launch of many a key national-level path-breaking initiative of the UPA Government. It not only gives one quite a measure of the trust the Central Government, reposes in the Haryana Government or states; and the state government getting a pat on the back for pursuing people-centric policies which have brought tangible results. A logical corollary of all this is that Haryana has emerged as a talking point at the national level.

The last national initiative to take off from the soil of Haryana was the National Vocational Education and Qualification Framework (NVEQF) project. Launched by then Union Human Resource Development Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, from Gurgaon, this prestigious project will be subsequently implemented in other states.

Haryana’s ambitiously innovative scheme, “Janani Suraksha Yojana”, caught the fancy of the Central Government which evolved its improved version and hoisted it across the nation. Christened “Rashtriya Janani-Shishu Suraksha Karyakram”, it was launched by Mrs Gandhi as a national initiative from the Mandikhera village of Mewat District in May, 2011, the third-in-a-row from Haryana.

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Defence University: A jewel in the crown

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Parveen K Modi

The Indian National Defence University (INDU) stone of which was laid by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, in Binola village of Gurgaon District, will be reckoned as a jewel in the crown of the 25-odd Central projects set up in Haryana. This will be the first university of its kind in the country and third in the world after USA and China. The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who has been instrumental in getting the state this prestigious institute, was the guest of honour at the foundation stone-laying ceremony.

Going by the script, the INDU will facilitate holistic study of defence and strategic security challenges. It would be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crore on 200 acres of land in Gurgaon District on the outskirts of Delhi. Land for the purpose has already been acquired by the Haryana Government.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The university will offer higher studies through distance learning to interested military and civilian personnel.

I am reminded of a late 19th century observation by General Sir William Francis Butler. In a biography of the British General, Charles George Gordon, Butler wrote: The nation that will insist on drawing a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools, and its thinking done by cowards. That is where this great university comes in.

Dr Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister
A large number of students from our own and foreign security forces and civilian officials would undergo various training programmes and courses at INDU every year. One-third of the students in this university would be civilians. Decidedly, this Central project will do Haryana proud.

Laying stone of the university, Dr Manmohan Singh thanked Mr Hooda for extending generous support to the project by providing land in Gurgaon. In turn, Mr Hooda thanked the Prime Minister and the Government of India for choosing Haryana as the venue for housing the prestigious university.

Among the leading Central projects set up in Haryana are the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, at Kundli in Sonipat; Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Kilord village in Sonipat; Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology in Murthal; Footwear Design and Development Institute in Rohtak; Indian Institute of Management in Rohtak; Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at Manesar; Second extension of IIT Delhi, in Jhajjar after its academic campus in Sonipat; AIIMS-II in Jhajjar; first nuclear energy partnership centre, Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership at Bahadurgarh; Central University in Mahendragarh; and the Nuclear power plant in Gorakhpur village of Fatehabad District.

A TRIBUTE TO ALL SOLDIERS

Speaking after laying the stone, the Prime Minister described the setting up of INDU as a tribute to all soldiers of our country. India faces a wide spectrum of security challenges, as it lives in a difficult neighbourhood. There is a pronounced change in Asia, where multiple security challenges on account of intersection of fragile states, internal conflicts, proliferation of arms and terrorist groups are existing. “The idea of setting up a defence university has been long in the making, and I am very happy that today we are witnessing the first step towards its becoming a reality,” PM said.

The proximity of the university to Delhi would facilitate the much needed close interaction among the faculty, students, defence policy makers and practitioners in the national capital. “I would also like to thank my senior colleague Raksha Mantri ji, the senior leadership of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence for the hard work they have done in realising this project of national importance. I have no doubt that, when completed, this unique university will become a world-class institution for higher defence studies, in which we will be able to take justifiable pride,” PM added.

India’s defence and security are a fundamental obligation of the government to the people and an essential prerequisite for our national, social and economic transformation. The government has attached the highest priority to these tasks. We seek to advance peace, stability, friendship and co-operation in our region and beyond, and we do so with the confidence that our armed forces can defend our country against any
threat. This confidence is based on the many steps the government has taken to strengthen the country’s defence capabilities.

In the last few years, the country has added significantly to the land forces to protect our borders and inducted new equipment to increase the Army’s firepower. “Our ability to service our frontiers with improved infrastructure and enhanced air mobility is considerably greater today than in the past. We have enhanced the full spectrum of capabilities of our Air Force and are equipping it to remain at the cutting edge of technology for the decades that lie ahead. Not only are our borders stronger, our seas are also more secure,” PM said.

**STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES**

The capabilities of our sea-borne forces to guard our coastline and offshore assets, have seen enormous expansion in the last five years. Special emphasis has been laid on strengthening the capabilities of our Navy, which is fully equipped to operate at great distances from our shores, protect our maritime interests, respond to natural disasters and provide humanitarian assistance to the needy.

Over the last nine years, our deterrence capabilities have also matured and have been given concrete shape. At the same time, the country is better equipped today to deal with non-conventional threats, especially in the cyber and space domains.

“We are implementing a national architecture for cyber security and have taken steps to create an office of a national cyber security coordinator. Our government is conscious of the fact that adequate defence preparedness is critically dependent on sound defence acquisition policies. We have paid close attention to this and have continually reformed those policies to ensure that our armed forces have the best equipment. We have also been guided by the objective of making our defence acquisition transparent, smooth, efficient and less vulnerable to unethical practices. We will continue to seek the highest standards of probity in defence acquisition,” PM added.

Another issue to which the country has paid close attention is indigenisation of defence procurement. The government is committed to taking further steps to stimulate development of our domestic defence industry, including the Indian private sector.

**INDIGENISING PROCUREMENT**

“This is important not only to enhance our security, but also to spur industrial development and economic growth of our country. The country
must fully utilise the sophisticated management and technological capacities that are already present in our private sector, including in the defence field, not just for production but also for defence research and development,” PM added.

“India faces the entire spectrum of security challenges. This is inevitable as we live in a difficult neighbourhood, which holds full range of conventional, strategic and non-traditional challenges. We are also situated at the strategic crossroads of Asia and astride one of the busiest sea lanes of the world. We inhabit a networked and digital world. Our dependence on imported energy is significant and is likely to grow. We are also living at a moment of history when the world is witnessing change on a scale and at a speed rarely seen before,” Dr Singh said.

NEW SETS OF CHALLENGES

Nowhere is this change more pronounced than in Asia which has witnessed multiple security challenges on account of the intersection of fragile states, internal conflicts and proliferation of arms and terrorist groups. Explosive development of technology is also transforming defence capabilities.

As our dependence on the cyber and outer space domains grows, new sets of challenges will emerge, which can also assume military dimensions. “The nature of conflict and competition is changing at the same time when national boundaries are being blurred by deepening global integration. Therefore, while defending and securing our homeland, we also have to be prepared to preserve India’s expanding international assets,” PM said.

These multiple challenges notwithstanding, we must also be conscious of our strategic opportunities. India’s security has never been stronger than it is today and our international relationships have never been more conducive to our national development efforts.

“Our engagement in our immediate neighbourhood has increased. We have deepened political, economic and strategic relations in the Asia-Pacific, Indian Ocean and West Asian regions. Our relations with all major powers have become stronger and more productive. We are also particularly participating in key global and regional forums, ranging from the Group of 20 to the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN groupings,” PM said.

Taken together, these challenges and opportunities should prompt a reorientation of our strategic thinking and a reappraisal of our higher defence organisation. It is imperative that our defence professionals remain abreast of the complex environment we face and the avenues that are available as a result of the enormous transition taking place in India.

SOURCE OF MILITARY ADVICE

The university is meant to ensure that the country, the government and the armed forces benefit from the best military advice that is available. It is meant to provide an avenue for our soldiers to think beyond the physical arts of war and for our thinkers and policymakers to understand the complexities of war and conflict. It is also meant to provide our defence professionals with a deep understanding of the interplay between all attributes of national power.

Those who pass through the portals of this university will need to track regional and global trends, new and emerging technologies and developments in defence capabilities and strategies. They will also need to map the contours of future conflicts and understand the relationship between defence and finance, between external and internal security and between defence and diplomacy.

Only then would they be able to fulfill the vision of the late Dr K Subrahmaniam who, in proposing the establishment of the National Defence University, had highlighted the need to educate and adequately prepare national security leaders to enable them to look at security challenges holistically and frame policies based on informed research, Dr Singh said.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

“Our expectations from this institution, therefore, are high. I am equally confident that they will be met fully. I look forward to the Indian National Defence University emerging as an excellent platform to promote scholarship of a high order and train and equip future generations of leaders to meet India’s defence needs and fulfill our international responsibilities. The university, I hope, will set the highest standards of professionalism, creativity and debate.” PM added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Defence Minister, Mr A K Antony, said that laying of the stone of university showed the priority the government attached to national security. The global standard university will be ready by 2018-19.

The four existing Defence Institutions– National Defence College, New Delhi; College of Defence Management, Secunderabad; Defence Services Staff College; Wellington; and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune are proposed to be brought under the ambit of the INDU. Initially, four colleges related to Defence Studies, Defence Technology, Defence Management and Distance Learning will be set up on the university complex in Gurgaon.
INDU will put Haryana on global defence map

The first Indian National Defence University (INDU) of the country will facilitate holistic study of defence and strategic security challenges. The Binola village of Gurgaon District has been chosen for locating the university due to its strategic proximity to the national capital. Only USA and China have similar universities.

Fully autonomous in character, the long awaited university will be instituted by an Act of Parliament with the President of India as the Visitor and Defence Minister as the Chancellor. It would be governed by its own norms and promote coordination and interaction between the armed forces and non-armed forces institutions/estABLishments in the country. It will focus on higher education in defence studies, defence management, defence science and technology.

“The university will offer post-graduate studies and doctoral/post-doctoral research and provide opportunities for higher studies through distance learning to interested military and civilian personnel,” the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, told Haryana Review.

CIVILIAN STUDENTS

“A large number of students from our own and foreign security forces and civilian officials would undergo various training programmes and courses at INDU every year. One-third of the students in this university would be civilians,” he added.

The university will offer courses in Post-Graduate (M Sc/M Tech), Masters in Philosophy (M Phil) and Doctorate (PhD) in the disciplines of Defence Studies, Defence Management and Defence Science & Technology. Courses will be offered not only for officers of the armed forces but also for those in civil services and paramilitary organisations. The university would open myriad avenues for job opportunities.

Years after it was first mooted, the INDU is finally going to come up 20 kms off Gurgaon, on the outskirts of the National Capital. It was in 2000 that the university got clearance from the empowered group of ministers who reviewed the report of a committee which had been set up to examine the 1999 Kargil conflict with Pakistan, and the entire spectrum of defence and security.
It has been for quite long that the need for a robust strategic thinking culture both within the military as well as outside, has been felt in India. The existing defence universities in USA and China prompted the government to form an autonomous institution for defence studies.

The Union Cabinet gave its final go-ahead to the proposal in 2010 when Haryana bagged the prestigious project leaving behind big contenders like Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Decidedly, the proximity of Haryana to the National Capital Region (NCR) tilted the scales in favour of Haryana. The university will take about three years to come up.

“As an independent institution, the university will provide input for scripting strategic policies to promote policy-oriented research on all aspects of national security and strategic future planning. It will also undertake long-term defence and strategic studies and create synergy between the academic community and government functionaries,” Mr Hooda said.

**PROMOTING CO-ORDINATION**

Besides promoting co-ordination and interaction among the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force, the university will also help promote and spread awareness about national security issues among the students who will constitute an audience beyond the pale of official machinery.

What’s more, it will bring together such existing institutes as the National Defence College (Delhi), College of Defence Management (Secunderabad), Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and National Defence Academy (Khadakwasla), which are currently affiliated to different universities, under its umbrella. It may also include new institutes like the National Institute of Strategic Studies, College of National Security Policy and Institute for Advanced Technology Studies, apart from a war gaming and simulation centre, in its ambit.

The university will educate national security leaders on all aspects of strategies in the fields of security, military, information, and technology through teaching and research. It is likely to inject strategic culture in the governance of the country. This set of defence learning will be equipped with training and research facilities on all aspects of national security as part of the strategic national policy-making.

**RESERVATION FOR DEFENCE MEN**

While one-third of the strength will comprise civilian students, the remaining seats will be reserved for in-service Defence personnel. The Education Consultants of India Ltd (EdCIL), which is a Public Sector Enterprise set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has been appointed by the Ministry of Defence consultant for formulation of the Detailed Project Report, Layout Plan and INDU Act & Statutes.

The university will seek to provide military leadership and concerned civilian officials knowledge-based higher education for management of defence of India, and keep them abreast of the emerging security challenges through scholarly research and training. It would develop and propagate higher education in Defence Studies, Defence Management, Defence Science and Technology and promote policy-oriented research related to National Defence.

While its think tank will provide inputs for policy formulation, the university will prepare officers for high level leadership and staff and policy responsibilities.
Haryana gets designer tag, Kurukshetra new identity

Kurukshetra gets a new identity as Haryana becomes the first state in the northern region and second in the country to have National Institute of Design.

Haryana is all set to flaunt its designer tag. The National Institute of Design (NID) is coming to the Kurukshetra district of the state, lending it a new identity. With this, Haryana has become the first state in the northern region and second in the country to have National Institute of Design.

Mr Anand Sharma, Union Commerce, Industry and Textile Minister, and Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Haryana Chief Minister, laid the foundation stone of the NID in Umri village of Kurukshetra District, on May 2, 2013. The cost of setting up the NID campus at Kurukshetra has been estimated at Rs 158.94 crore.

The National Institute of Design (NID) in Kurukshetra will be modelled on NID Ahmedabad seen in the photograph

**PATTERNED ON NID AHMEDABAD**

This institute is coming up after a gap of more than five long decades. The first NID was set up at Ahmedabad in Gujarat in 1961. The Kurukshetra cousin will be patterned on NID Ahmedabad. At present, only one NID is functioning from three campuses— at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat; and Bengaluru in Karnataka.
Mr Anand Sharma said that in view of its national importance, NID has been declared as Centre of Excellence. World-class design education and training at the institute will turn out professionals in the various fields of design industry. NID will open new opportunities not only for the youth of Haryana but of other states as well.

He said that Japan would provide technology assistance to bring NID, Kurukshetra on the international map. NID at Kurukshetra would be set up over an area of about 20 acres with an investment of Rs 160 crore. The land for this institute has been provided free by the state government, he added. Describing Mr Hooda as a popular and progressive chief minister, Mr Sharma said that it was due his persistent efforts that the only NID of the Northern Region has been given to Haryana.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES
The NID offers professional education programmes at under-graduate and post-graduate level in four faculty streams and 17 diverse design domains. It has collaboration programmes with over 50 foreign universities and institutions of repute.

NID, Kurukshetra, a premier institute in this field, will cater to the needs of design industry dotting north India. It would provide world-class design education and training to professionals in the fields of animation, film, exhibition, graphics, product, ceramic and glass, lifestyle, furniture and interior design.

The institute will offer four-year bachelor degree course after XII and also start a two-and-a-half-year post-graduate course. Besides, it would have courses in automobile, industrial, rural and agriculture production and textile designs.

NID, Kurukshetra will offer a four-year bachelor degree course after class XII and a two-and-a-half-year post-graduate course. Besides, it would have courses in automobile, industrial, rural and agriculture production and textile designs.

The institute will offer a four-year bachelor degree course after XII and also start a two-and-a-half-year post-graduate course. Besides, it would have courses in automobile design, transportation design, industrial design, rural and agriculture production design and textile design. Besides the academic building, studio and workshop, hostel and administrative block would be set up on the campus.

The institute would be funded by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP). It is likely to be completed within a span of three years. The campus will have 500 students of under-graduate and post-graduate programme with teaching faculty of about 100 and 150 supporting technical staff. A sum of Rs 100 crore would be spent on the first phase of the project.

The NID Kurukshetra campus would span more than 164 kanals. The Haryana Government has already allotted land measuring 20 acres, four kanals and 14 marlas in Umri village. The NID has taken possession of the land on behalf of the DIPP and executed the lease deed for a period of 33 years w.e.f April 29, 2013. The matter concerning construction of the boundary wall has already been taken up with Director, NID.

FOUR NEW NIDs
The National Design Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet, on February 8, 2007 envisaged setting up of four new National Institutes of Design on the pattern of NID, Ahmedabad, in different parts of the country. Accordingly, four new design education institutes are being set up in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Assam for which the Planning Commission has accorded ‘in principle’ approval. A combined Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) note for setting up four new NIDs during the XIIth Five-Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs 648.20 crore has been circulated to the Department of Expenditure and Planning Commission.

Besides NID, a National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) would also be set up in Panchkula district of Haryana. This institute would give further boost to the industries related to fashion and textile.
**Horticulture in Sirsa District**

has not only acquired a deeper and wider dimension but has also made the growers a confident lot. Besides going hi-tech, it has brought more area under fruits, vegetables and flowers; helped improve their production and productivity; offered farmers and growers a ready cash-crop way-out of the stereotyped crop rotation; and enabled them to earn more and live better.

All this and a lot more, thanks to the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, set up by the Haryana Government at the cost of Rs 9.7 crore under the Indo-Israeli collaboration, in Mangiana village of Sirsa District, 10 kms from Mandi Dabwali, under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM). Better still; the growers of Sirsa have acquired greater confidence in their new-found abilities, and Sirsa a name for the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

**APPROVED IN 2009**

The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, inaugurated the Centre on May 21, 2013 in the presence of the Ambassador of Israel, Mr Alon Ushpiz. The project was approved in June, 2009, to sustain and develop sub-tropical fruit cultivation and industry in Haryana. A similar Centre of Excellence for Vegetables was set up at Gharaunda in Karnal in 2011.

While inaugurating the Centre of Excellence, the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, announced that Israel will run two training courses every year for progressive farmers from Haryana. In these courses, the farmers will learn modern techniques for increasing their income from farming.

“In the present times, when landholdings are becoming smaller and water is becoming scarce, adoption of the latest technology is the only way to survive for our farmers,” Mr Hooda said addressing farmers after the inauguration of the project. He said that he had been to Israel and had seen how farmers in that country had been making handsome earnings from small landholdings by taking to newer techniques in horticulture.

He said that it was due to these techniques that Israeli farmers had been supplying fruits to the whole Europe despite living in a country as small as the state of Haryana.

“Israel and Haryana have several similarities in climate and soil conditions. There is an acute shortage of irrigation water in Israel, but farmers there are getting four to five times more production by adopting the most modern technology of irrigation and cultivation,” said Mr Hooda.

The Chief Minister said that keeping this in mind, the Government of India approved two centres of excellence - one for vegetables and the other for fruits in Haryana at a cost of Rs 15.7 crore. Set up on 72 acres at a cost of Rs 9.7 crore, the Centre of Excellence for Fruits will endeavour to develop sub-tropical fruit cultivation and industry in Haryana.

**ISRAELI KNOW-HOW**

“The Mangiana centre has facilitated flow of latest Israeli technology and expertise. High-end Israeli know-how is tampered at the centre to suit Indian environment to give a decisive push to the production of fruits like..."
mango, kinnow, olives and pomegranate. Horticultural experts from India and Israel pool their brains, and advise and visit the centre from time to time to guide the growers,” Mr Hooda told Haryana Review.

The 72 acres of land covered by the centre is being optimally utilised for developing different species of fruits. The main objective of the centre is to increase the productivity and production of different fruit crops. The Israeli Embassy has awarded Haryana for its contribution in the field of horticulture.

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

The four major interventions planned under the first-of-its-kind project include introduction of improved cultivars and new crops, like citrus, olives, dates, pomegranates, guavas; demonstration of modern production technologies; development and demonstration of post-harvest management technologies and quality management; and development of human resource and capacity building.

The Israeli Ambassador, Mr Alon Ushpiz, said during the inaugural ceremony that another Centre of Excellence had been inaugurated by the Chief Minister in the wonderful state of Haryana. He said that people of Haryana were very hard working and dedicated like those of Israel. They never surrender to hardships of nature.

Speaking in chaste Hindi, he said, “Jab hum Haryana mein hain, hame apne ghar jaisa mehsoos hota hai. Jab Haryana wasiyon se baat karte hain, tab mahsoos hota hai jaise apne bhaiyon se baat kar rahe hain”. (When we are in Haryana, we feel like we are at home. When we talk to Haryana people, we feel that we are talking to our brothers).

EXPORTING KINNOWS

Many farmers are now engaged in the export of kinnow fruit. During the past three years, kinnows worth Rs 5.8 crore were exported to England, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and some metropolitan cities in southern India.

Thus, expanding markets offer farmers almost double the prices for their produce. Many varieties of citrus fruits have been brought from Israel for cross-breeding. Seedless varieties of fruits are grown in the area. The newly-found interest in fruit crops will boom with good quality planting material and facilities for marketing, grading, processing and storing of the fruit crops.
The project has done wonders and shall go a long way in promoting horticulture on a large scale in the entire state. Saplings of citrus fruits, pomegranates, olives, guavas and dates have been planted at the centre. Apart from this, shed net houses, anti-insect houses and high-tech greenhouses have also been set up with latest Israeli technology. Micro-irrigation with automatic system has been installed in separate blocks of orchards and nursery.

Plants of different varieties of citrus fruits have been planted over an area of 23 acres of land, pomegranates on four acres, olives on six acres, guavas on three acres and dates on five acres. The centre would not only encourage farmers of the district to adopt horticulture, but farmers from northern India would also visit the centre to benefit. Horticulture farming would increase the income of farmers.

Thus, Haryana has chosen the right route to prosperity via the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, Sirsa.
Today, the small state of Haryana is popular all over the country as it is home to many prestigious Central projects, be it educational or infrastructural. These projects have changed the lives of the denizens of the state by providing them innumerable benefits and opportunities for growth, development and better living.

Many educational institutes are already there in the state and many new are coming up. This trend provides assurance to the youth of Haryana that there is no dearth of learning opportunities for those who are aspiring to make a career in upcoming fields like hotel management, food technology, fashion technology, management studies, information technology et al.

Many reputed educational institutes have been set up in Rohtak and Kurukshetra throwing open myriad opportunities for its youth. Panchkula has been chosen to set up the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), thus giving an impetus to creativity in the region. Other districts, like Mahendragarh, Jhajjar, Rewari, Fatehabad, which are comparatively economically and educationally backward than the rest of the districts, have also been chosen for setting up important projects.

Many Central infrastructural projects, that include construction of new railway lines, six highway projects and metro extension, have come to the state, putting an end to the long pending commuting problems of the people. After Gurgoan and Manesar, Sonipat is the next hub of many projects due to its industrial township region and proximity to NCR region.

But bringing such big and prestigious projects to the soil of Haryana was not an easy task. The state was able to win all these projects, beating other states, owing to the persistent efforts put in by the state government, led by the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Here goes a list of Central projects which have come up or are coming up in different districts of Haryana:

**SONIPAT**

**National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management:** The institute at Kundli in Sonipat was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Mr Sharad Pawar, on November 7, 2012. NIFTEM has been set up by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries with the total investment of Rs 260 crore.

The Haryana Government has facilitated the project by allotting 100 acres land at concessional rates in Kundli for the institute. The institute is not only providing an impetus to the development of this area but is also useful in capacity building of a wide range of stakeholders. NIFTEM will go a long way in facilitating the development of food processing value chain in the state and contribute to the growth of this vital sector of our economy.

**Indian Institute of Information Technology:** The Government of India has given its in-principle approval to set up the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Kilord village in Sonipat. This would give a big boost to technical education in the state. IIIT is being established in public private partnership (PPP) mode by the Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development for which the Gram Panchayat has offered land measuring 128 acres, 7 kanal, 6 marla. The selection of industrial partners for the project is in process.

**Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology:**
Recently, the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), was inaugurated in May 2013, by the Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers and Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr Srikanta Kumar Jena, in Murthal in Sonipat. Classes for B Tech, post-graduate and under-graduate courses in the CIPET would commence from the next academic session. This centre would be a boon for the plastics and allied industries not only in Haryana but the neighbouring states as well.

CIPET operates at 23 different locations spanning the country. It renders technology support services in design, tooling, plastics processing, testing and quality assurance for domestic needs and abroad. The Planning Commission had approved the setting up of CIPET centre in Haryana in 2005. The institute had started functioning at Panipat in 2006 in a rented building.

But now its own building has been constructed on the campus of Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technology, Murthal at the cost of Rs 25 crore. The entire expenditure on the construction of the building has been borne by the state government. Apart from this, the state government has also provided 10 acres of land for the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management in Sonipat.

NIFTEM will go a long way in facilitating the development of food processing value chain in the state and contribute to the growth of this vital sector of our economy. The institute is not only providing an impetus to the development of this area but is also useful in capacity building of a wide range of stakeholders.
purpose.

Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, is coming up in Sonipat. The IIT Council has cleared the proposal of the state government to set up the second campus of the IIT-Delhi in the Rajiv Gandhi Education City at Rai village in Sonipat. About 50 acres of land has been offered by the state. Although the campus is an infrastructural expansion of the Delhi-based IIT, its development is expected to be funded by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and IIT.

So far, 12 sponsoring bodies, including National Law University and IIT Delhi, have been allotted educational plots in the Rajiv Gandhi Education City. Allotment of land to India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is also being considered for setting up a tourism university.

MANESAR/ GURGAON

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs: The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) has been set up at IMT Manesar by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs over a plot of 14 acres. The project involves an investment of Rs 211 crore. The institution would function as a think tank, action research, service delivery and capacity building support for the ministry, corporate sector, professionals and related stakeholders. This institute would lend professionalism to events asso-
Associated with corporate affairs.

**International Centre for Automotive Technology:** The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar is a division of NATIS (NATRIP Implementation Society), an independent registered society and an apex body for implementation of National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP), Government of India in the northern region. ICAT is a notified testing agency and is working towards the development of automobile industry in the country.

The ICAT in Manesar is the principal homologation testing agency and R & D centre in North India. The unit started its activities with effect from April 1, 2006, after it was re-christened from the earlier name of ARAI-RCN after takeover by NATRIP. An investment of Rs 1,440 crore has been allocated for setting up additional facilities for upgradation and test tracks for homologation.

Additional land of about 46.29 acres has been acquired for HSIIDC and construction work is in full swing for passive safety lab, EMC lab, NVH lab, and test tracks to enable the centre to perform all homologation tests.

**Central Identification Data Repository:** The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) has allotted five acres of land to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) at IMT Manesar for setting up of Central Identification Data Repository (CIDR) for its project Aadhaar.

The project would involve an investment of Rs 275 crore, out which Rs 160 crore would be incurred on the data centre infrastructure development and building and Rs 115 crore would be invested for other civil and miscellaneous works. The UIDAI envisions enrollment of 600 million people by 2015. The project is being developed on an area of five acres.

**KURUKSHETRA**

**Institute of Hotel Management:**

The Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Jyotisar, Kurukshetra is an autonomous Institute jointly sponsored by the Union Ministry of Tourism and the Haryana Department of Tourism. It is a society registered under the Society of Registration Act with District Registrar of Firms & Societies, Kurukshetra. Its first academic session commenced from July, 2008.

The institute is equipped with laboratories and classrooms for students to acquire the required skill standards in the degree and diploma programmes.

**Basic training kitchen of IHM, Kurukshetra**
laboratories and classrooms for students to acquire the required skill standards in the degree and diploma programmes. An investment of Rs 10 crore was made by the Central Government and the state government gave a sum of Rs 3 crore and land of 5 acres, to set up this institute.

**PANCHKULA**

**National Institute of Fashion Technology:** The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) is coming up in Manakpur village in Panchkula. The institute will offer training of international level to its students. For this the state government will give financial assistance of Rs 99.71 crore and will make available land of 15 acres.

**MAHENDRAGARH**

**Central University:** With a view to providing education related facilities to this region of Haryana which is comparatively educationally and economically backward, the decision was taken to set up the Central University in Mahendragarh. The establishment of this Central University will benefit the youth of the area in terms of higher education and consequently job opportunities, thereby giving a boost to economic activity in the district. The permanent campus of the university is being developed on an area of 488 acres at Jant-Pali village in Mahendragarh with an investment of Rs 300 crore.

Currently, the Central University is running its academic operations from the temporary campus at Government B.Ed College, Narnaul which is the district headquarters of Mahendragarh.
REWAR

Sainik School: Sainik School Rewari was inaugurated on August 29, 2008 by Mr A K Antony, Defence Minister. The proposed permanent location of the school is at village Gothra Tappa Khori, Rewari. The school is temporarily functioning from Govt Primary School, Sector - 4, Rewari.

This is the second Sainik School of Haryana. There are total 23 Sainik Schools in the country, of which Bihar and Karnataka are the schools that have two Sainik Schools each and now Haryana is the third state to have two Sainik Schools.

The primary aim of the school is to prepare boys academically, mentally and physically for entry into the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla. The school enables boys from economically weaker sections of the society to take up a challenging and high status career as an officer in the defence services of India. At present the school has 161 cadets studying in Class VI and VII.

Sainik School Rewari basically caters to the boys of the state but few seats are available for children belonging to other states also. This is done to promote the spirit of national integration among the cadets. Liberal scholarship is provided by the state government and the Ministry of Defence on the basis of a cadet’s academic performance and parents’ income.

ROHTAK

Indian Institute of Management: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak, was inaugurated in June, 2010. It is the eighth IIM to be established in the country. It is first one north of Delhi.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak, was inaugurated in June, 2010. It is the eighth IIM to be established in the country. It is first one north of Delhi 2012, the intake was increased to 120-130 students.

IIM-Rohtak is temporarily functioning from Maharishi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak. The classrooms are located in the newly constructed, fully furnished, humanities block which is completely dedicated to IIM Rohtak. The institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 with a top-notch US B-school, Kelley School of Business (KSB), for the pursuit of excellence in global business education.

IIM-Rohtak campus covering an area of 200 acres campus is being constructed at Sunaria near Rohtak. A budget of about Rs 2.50 billion has been allocated by the Central Government to develop the campus. The foundation stone for the new campus was laid on October 1, 2010.

Footwear Design and Development Institute: The Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) has been set up at IMT Rohtak by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The institute is spread over an area of 17 acres and involves an investment of Rs 110 crore.

The opening of footwear training institute in Haryana would cater to the needs of trained manpower and provide all technical value-added services for global competence of the industry. It will cater to the requirements of industrial units in footwear sector and promote industrial growth in the state. Course and training programme in the institute have already commenced.

JHAJJAR

Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is also pushing for another extension campus in the Jhajjar area where it has asked for about 100 acres of land. This second extension is being envisaged as IIT’s research campus while the Sonipat campus will be developed for academic expansion. A six-member team of faculty members and officials from IIT-Delhi visited some plots in and around Jhajjar, near Gurgaon, recently to identify a site.
Green signal to infra projects

The Central Government has given a green signal to many new infrastructure projects in the state, thereby improving the life of the citizens. The projects in which the Haryana Government has participation, are:

**RAILWAY PROJECTS**

In the past eight years, the Hooda Government has made tremendous progress in constructing new railway lines. During this time, the state got six new railway lines. In the current Railway Budget, Haryana has got many railway projects, railway over bridges and new railway services.

Earlier in 1971, there was only one railway line between the districts Bhiwani and Rohtak. With the construction of the Rewari-Jhajjar-Rohtak railway line, the southern Haryana is now directly connected to the state’s capital, Chandigarh. In North India this is the first railway line half of the expenditure of which has been incurred by the Haryana Government.

The work on Sonipat-Jind railway line is in progress while the work on Rohtak-Meham-Hansi railway line will be started soon. For this railway line, the state government will not only offer free land but would also bear half of the construction cost. The construction of the railway line involves investment of Rs 406.87
new line extension up to Makrauli, which will serve as a rail bypass for Rohtak. As a result of this, Rohtak-Panipat line will be shifted out of the city. With this, Rohtak will become the first town in the country to have such a line which will help decongest Rohtak city.

The new rail line projects, which are expected to be completed during the next financial year, are Jind-Bhambewa-Gohana and Gohana-Sonipat. There is also a proposal for electrification of two railway lines: Delhi-Rewari-Jaipur and Jakhal-Hesar.

**METRO SERVICE**

Gurgaon has been linked with Delhi Metro services. The cost of this project is Rs 1,422 crore and Haryana Government has spent Rs 604 crore on it. After Noida, Gurgaon is the second NCR region where Delhi Metro services have been started. From Central Secretariat to Gurgaon, daily nearly 2 lakh commuters take a metro service which is reducing their one and a half journey to just 45 minutes.

For the metro rail services extension to Faridabad project, work is in progress involving an investment of about Rs 2,500 crore. On this project, the Haryana Government will spend its share of Rs 1,557.4 crore and this project is expected to be completed by 2014. This metro service will ease daily commuting troubles and will also give new direction to the industrial town Faridabad and its economic growth.

The Central Government has given its approval to the Delhi Metro services extension from YMCA Chowk Faridabad to Ballabgarh, where the Haryana Government is spending Rs 468.2 crore completed six projects in the state, which include Delhi-Gurgaon (NH-8), Badarpur Flyover (NH-2), Delhi-Panipat (NH-1), Panipat Elevated Highway (NH-1), Ambala-Chandigarh (NH-22), and Zirakpur-Kalka-Parwanoo-four laning.

**NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

Construction work of the much talked about country’s largest 2,800 MW nuclear power plant at Gorakhpur in Fatehabad will start from August 2013. According to the draft of the proposed power plant, construction of the project will be taken up in two stages, having two units generating 700 MW each.

The first stage project will be commissioned in 60 months from the "zero date" in August, 2013, and subsequent two units are expected to be commissioned four years later. During construction stage, a maximum of 8,000 persons will be temporarily deployed. On completion of the final stage of the project, a regular manpower of about 1,700 persons will be required (covering technical and general administration).

The first stage project will be commissioned in 60 months from the "zero date" in August, 2013, and subsequent two units are expected to be commissioned four years later. During construction stage, a maximum of 8,000 persons will be temporarily deployed. On completion of the final stage of the project, a regular manpower of about 1,700 persons will be required (covering technical and general administration).

The main plant units of the Rs 23,502-crore project will be set up in 608.5 hectares, including the exclusion zone of one km around the reactor building.

The draft plan of the project prepared by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL), has made provision for a residential colony for about 1,700 employees in which adequate parking space for about 1,500 cars, light commercial vehicles and community facilities, including hospital, community centre, school, shopping centre, recreation club, sports complex, playground, bank, post office, petrol pump, etc., will be created.
Once cited in history books for being one of the five cities belonging to the Indus Valley civilisation, today, Hisar is known for the production of galvanised iron, which is the largest production in India. Due to the presence of a large steel industry, it is also known as “The City of Steel.”

It is located 164 km to the west of New Delhi, India’s capital, and has been identified as a counter-magnet city for the National Capital Region to attract migrants and develop as an alternative centre of growth to Delhi.

**FOUNDED BY MUSLIM RULER**

The city of Hisar was founded by a Muslim ruler, Firozshah Tughlaq, in 1354 A.D. ‘Hisar’ is an Arabic word which means ‘Fort’. The city, which we know today as ‘Hisar’, was originally called ‘Hisar Firoza (also Hisar-e-Firoza) or in other words the ‘Fort of Firoz’. But as the days rolled by, the very word ‘Firoza’ was dropped from its original name.

The city was ruled by several major powers, including the Mauryans in the 3rd century BC, the Tughlaqs in the 14th century, the Mughals in the 16th century and the British in the 19th century. After the independence of India, Hisar was unified with the state of Punjab. When Punjab was divided in 1966, Hisar became a part of Haryana.

Hisar district consists of four tehsils and three sub-tehsils. The tehsils are Hisar, Hansi, Narnaund and Adampur and sub-tehsils are Barwala, Uklana and Bass.

**DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

Hisar is a divisional headquarters of the Divisional Commissioner and also the headquarters of the Police Range. It is also a battalion headquarters of B.S.F. 3rd Bn. H.A.P. and commando force. In order to accommodate all of these departments, a five-storey District Administrative Complex was built, with the offices transferred in 1980.

It adjoins the new Judiciary Complex, which is also made functional. This administrative and judiciary complex is the largest in Haryana; as a district headquarters, it may be one of the largest in the country.

As of 2011 census, Hisar is the second most populous district of Haryana (out of 21), after Faridabad. According to the 2011 census Hisar district has a population of 17,42,815, roughly equal to the nation of The Gambia or the US state of Nebraska. This gives it a ranking of 276th in India (out of a total of 640).

The district has a population density of 438 inhabitants per square kilometre. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 13.38 per cent. It has a sex ratio of 871 females for every 1,000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.2 per cent.

Hisar is home to three universities and many noted colleges. Agricultural and veterinary research centres are also located here. The first university that came into existence in Hisar was Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCHAU) in 1971. It is one of the biggest agricultural universities of Asia. HAU has brought spectacular transformation and the district which earlier grew only coarse grains, is now the cotton belt of Haryana.

**THREE UNIVERSITIES**

Other universities located in Hisar are Guru Jambheshwar University (GJU) of Science and Technology and Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences. GJU is the first Indian government-run institute which is providing post graduation in printing technology.

Hisar is India’s largest galvanised iron manufacturing city. The journey began with Pipe Unit Jindal India

**LARGE TEXTILE INDUSTRY**

Additionally, a large textile industry is based in the district. Major textile companies are Hisar Textile Mills, Hansi Cooperative Spinning Mills and H P Cotton Textile Mills Limited. The Oxygen manufacturing unit, Haryana Oxygen is also located here.

Hisar has Asia’s largest automobile repair and spare parts market in terms of radius and area. It also has a large number of livestock farms and Asia’s largest and world’s second largest cattle farm.

The liberalisation of the economy has encouraged many international brands to open retail outlets in the city. The first mall, Suncity Mall, was opened to the general public in 2006. Connaught Place, planned as a one stop luxury location with multiple five-star facilities, is being developed in Sector 25. Metropolis Mall is also in progress.

Hisar city is a part of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project which aims at developing strong road and rail connectivity between the cities lying on it and develops them as an industrial area.

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**Historical roots**

An ancient Shiva Temple at Siswal village in Hisar is famous for ‘Shiva Linga’ which is believed to have come out naturally from the earth. Sheela Mata Temple at Agroha is another prominent religious place which was constructed in the memory of Sheela Mata who ended her life as a Sati.

Signs of Pre-Harappan settlements have been found at Siswal and Lohari Ragho. One of the four pre-Harappan phases has been named Sothi-Siswal period (3200–2600 BC) after the name of this site. Harappan settlements can be found in Rakhigarhi as well. The site covers 2,180 hectares, making it the largest Harappan site known in India and the second biggest overall after Mohenjodaro. All the sites are maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Agroha is another place of historical importance. It is situated about 24 km from the city of Hisar and was once the capital of king Agrasena, who is believed to have lived during the last stages of Dwapar Yuga in the Mahabharat era. Remains of his capital have been excavated, known as Agroha Mound or locally as Ther, and belong to around 3000 BC. The city was also a major centre during the Mauryan period as Buddhist and Jain temples have also been revealed in the excavations.

Firoz Shah Palace Complex is another prominent historical site located inside the city. It was built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq in 1354. The original town was a walled settlement inside the fort with four gates, Delhi gate, Mori gate, Nagauri gate and Talaqi gate.

The palace comprises a mosque known as Lat ki Masjid. Lat is a sandstone pillar about 20 feet high and was earlier an Ashokan pillar. Underground apartments are also located inside the complex. The place has also a Diwan-e-Aam. Gujri Mahal is another palace located near the palace complex also built by Firoz Shah for his wife Gujri. Its construction was completed in 1356 and stands on a massive rectangular platform.

Hansi also has a few historical places; Asigarh Fort is a centrally protected monument, where Barsi Gate serves as entrance to the fort. Durgah Char Qutub was built in the memory of celebrated Sufi saints of those times.
Higher Education sector in Haryana is witnessing an exponential growth and universities are the centres which give substantial impetus to knowledge, skill and research. Haryana has 10 state universities, out of which three are in Hisar.

These universities offer education in diverse fields of law, sciences, technology, commerce and management, life sciences, arts and languages, thus providing innumerable opportunities for career and growth to students.

**AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, popularly known as HAU, located in Hisar, is one of Asia’s biggest agricultural universities. It is named after India’s seventh Prime Minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh. The university is a leader in agricultural research in India and contributed significantly to Green Revolution and White Revolution in India in 1960s and 70s. It has a very large campus and has several research centres throughout the state.

HAU was initially a campus of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. After the formation of Haryana in 1966, it became an autonomous institution on February 2, 1970. The university has 8,645 acres land (around 7,219 acres at main campus and 1,426 acres at outstations). Since 1970 there has been significant advancement in research and teaching by creation of a strong infrastructure at both its main campus and at outreach stations.

The university has a large campus in which academic buildings for various colleges, schools and departments, residential, recreational and common facilities such as faculty house and club, farmers’ hostel, students’ hostel, hospital, shopping centre etc., are built. Besides, some other buildings are Gandhi Bhawan, Nehru Library, Indira Gandhi Auditorium and the Administration Building. The university has scientifically well-planned spacious buildings to accommodate six constituent colleges viz. College of Agriculture, College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, College of Veterinary Sciences, College of Animal Sciences, College of Basic Sciences & Humanities and...
College of Home Science. Each college building is a complete institution in itself, having large number of well-planned lecture rooms, laboratories, auditorium, seminar rooms, audio-visual laboratories, computer facilities etc.

The university has hostel facilities catering to the needs of undergraduate and postgraduate students. It has a two-room set hostel for married students located in the residential complex. There are separate hostels for in-service and foreign students.

There is a well-furnished faculty house, having facilities at par with a modern guest house, serving housing needs of national as well as international scientists. There is a farmers’ hostel with same level of facilities for the farmers visiting the university. In addition to these modern housing accommodations, there is spacious Kisan Ashram catering to the needs of the farmer trainees attending different short-term courses organised by the Directorate of Extension Education from time to time.

The university has a well-developed experimental farm of 994 hectares at the main campus, Hisar, along with ten experimental farms, one with each regional research station covering an area of 568 hectares. The irrigation system is well planned on scientific lines. The experimental farms are having advantage of both canal as well as tubewell irrigation facilities.

The canal and tubewell irrigation systems are well integrated in order to improve water quality and to avoid transmission losses, thereby increasing water-use efficiency. Adequate number of farm machinery, such as tractors, harrows, seed planters and harvesters, are available for timely completion of farm operations.

**Guru Jambheshwar University**

Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology was established on October 20, 1995. Named after Guru Jambheshwar Ji Maharaj, the university is situated over a sprawling area of about 372 acres. It offers courses in the areas of science, technology, engineering, pharmacy, physiotherapy and management on the university campus and all technical institutions (except B.Pharmacy institutions) in the districts Fatehabad, Hisar and Sirsa.

Emphasis is laid on both theoretical as well as practical training for exposing students to the latest developments in areas of science and technology. For the purpose, the university invites academicians, professionals and researchers from institutions and industries.

The Training and Placement Cell takes care of training and campus placements of the students. The cell is equipped with appropriate infrastructure to execute the placement process. The cell keeps liaison with the potential industries and provides necessary guidance to the students. It also makes arrangements for students to participate in off-campus drives organised at various institutions and industries. The university has recently established a placement office in Gurgaon for coordinating placement activities and mobilising the companies from NCR region.

There are seven hostels (three for boys, three for girls and one for working women) which can accommodate
as many as 1,600 students. All the hostels are fully equipped with modern amenities, like electric geysers, music systems, telephone facilities, water coolers fitted with water purifiers, insect killers, adequate playgrounds and other recreational facilities, like television, chessboard, carom board, a common room where newspapers and latest magazines are available for the students.

All hostels have internet and wi-fi facility. The lawns around the hostels are developed aesthetically to provide refreshing view while entering or leaving hostel. Keeping in view the increasing strength of students, two more hostels, one each for boys and girls, are being constructed.

**VETERINARY UNIVERSITY**

An independent university of veterinary and animal sciences, named Lala Lajpat Rai Veterinary and Animal Husbandry University, was established on December 1, 2010 in Hisar. The College of Veterinary Sciences, earlier a constituent college of CCS Haryana Agricultural University, has now been incorporated in this university. The college has a glorious history of more than 60 years, since it was shifted to Hisar from Lahore (Pakistan).

At present, the university is located in the campus of CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. It has adequate facilities and infrastructure for the basic degree in Veterinary Sciences (BVSc. & AH) as well as to provide quality education for post-graduate degrees of MVSc, and PhD in all disciplines. A spacious teaching veterinary clinical complex is providing round-the-clock services for treatment and care of sick animals, including referral services.

The ambulatory care clinic, central laboratory, animal research farm having different species of livestock and poultry and an excellent disease-free small animal house are some of the other unique facilities. The university is also running a two-year Veterinary Livestock Development Diploma course.

It also has seven disease investigation laboratories situated at strategic locations in the state to provide diagnostic services to livestock and poultry farmers and to strengthen surveillance of various emerging and existing diseases. The Regional Centre of Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex at Uchani (Karnal) is providing referral clinical services to north and eastern region of the state.

For the campus of the university, the Haryana Government has allotted 300 acres land on Hisar – Chandigarh National Highway. The foundation stone of the new campus of the university was laid on August 15, 2010. The new campus is intended to be environmental friendly and energy efficient and based on vertical expansion and green building concept.

The new campus is being planned with 2030 vision in mind. The campus will be self-sufficient with respect to the infrastructure and facilities for teaching, research, sports, recreational, residential, utilities, amenities and miscellaneous services etc. In addition, it will have centralised, inter-disciplinary, common facilities for teaching and research to make the working environment more interactive, friendly, efficient and economical.

The university has growth plans for adding other allied faculties, like fisheries, dairy technology, animal biotechnology and livestock & rural management etc, in a phased manner. It intends to establish a state-of-the-art super specialty diagnostic laboratory-cum-epidemiological centre with BSL-3 facilities to monitor emerging and re-emerging diseases and for quality testing of animal feed.

Thus, there are innumerable educational opportunities in Hisar for the students of not only Haryana but other states also.
In the Haryana hinterland, a large number of farmers depend on animal husbandry for their livelihood. Milk, meat, eggs, and wool are the major sources of income for both farmers and dairy owners.

Haryana is one of the biggest milk producers in the country today. Besides the milch animals, farmers rear other domestic animals too, for their different uses. Several institutes of research, where new techniques for the breeding of these animals are evolved, have been opened by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

**Promoting animal research**

Three Central research institutes, where new techniques for the breeding of domestic animals are evolved, have been opened in Hisar by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

The Centre has been working on various aspects of equine health and production and has made landmark achievements in the fields of development of diagnostics and prophylactics for equine diseases. It has also been recognised as national referral centre for diagnosis of important equine infectious diseases by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (Government of India). Besides, the Centre has been working towards characterisation of breeds of equines, cryopreservation of semen and artificial insemination.

The Centre has well-equipped laboratories for conducting research, which includes facilities for equine viral and bacterial disease research, immunology research, pathology research, parasitic disease research, medicine research, biochemistry and biotechnology research, physiology research, equine reproduction and equine genetics and breeding research. Besides, a separate facility for cell culture and hybridoma work is
Increased in the past five years. Due to the high yield, the Union Government wants to spread the breed in the entire country. In 2008, the Centre had asked Haryana to make available 20,000 bulls to supply in different parts of the country.

If Haryana has achieved the distinction of being the home of top buffalo breeds in the country, credit for this goes to the Central Institute of Research on Buffaloes situated in Hisar.

The Central Institute of Research on Buffaloes was established on February 1, 1985 with an aim of developing and propagating high-yielding elite buffalo germplasm for quality milk and meat production. A sub-campus of the institute was established in December, 1987, at Bir Dosanjh, Nabra, in Patiala district. Presently, the institute has strength of 40 scientists at the main campus and sub campus.

The institute carries out research on various aspects of buffalo improvement, including conservation of germplasm, development of optimum diets and feeding systems, enhancement of reproductive efficiency and health management practices for augmenting milk, meat and draught performance of the species.

Research activities of the institute are managed under three divisions of buffalo genetics– breeding & management, buffalo nutrition and buffalo physiology & reproduction. Laboratories have been developed under these divisions to cater to the research needs of the institute’s scientists and collaborators.

Other important infrastructure available at the institute include the animal farm, agricultural farm with all peripheral support units, like veterinary unit, reproduction unit, feed and fodder unit and workshop.

Currently, about 500 Murrah buffaloes and 400 Nili-Ravi buffaloes constitute the breeding herds at Hisar and Nabha, respectively. The agricultural farm has a total area of 423 ha in Hisar; out of which about 30 per cent land is arable, and under fodder cultivation for the institute’s livestock. The sub-campus has 235 ha of highly fertile land, which meets the requirements of green fodder, and to a large extent, of dry fodder and cereal grains of Nili-Ravi herd at Nabha.

INSTITUTE ON BUFFALOES

Murrah, a breed of milch buffaloes from Haryana, are today ameliorating lives of countless number of farmers, not only from the state but across the country. Last year, Haryana had supplied 957 bulls to Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Punjab. This year the demand has almost doubled.

Farmers and dairy owners have been buying buffaloes and bulls from Haryana since long but organised purchasing by state governments has increased in the past five years. Due to the high yield, the Union Government wants to spread the breed in the entire country. In 2008, the Centre had asked Haryana to make available 20,000 bulls to supply in different parts of the country.

The Centre has small libraries, both in Hisar and Bikaner campuses, with a collection of about 850 books in all. In addition, several scientific international and Indian journals pertaining to equine researches are subscribed.

The Centre has the support of animal and agriculture farms; one at Hisar (area 200 acres), and another at Jorbeer (area 100 acres) 10 kilometers from Bikaner. The farms are adequately equipped for cultivation of feed and fodder for the equines and for providing grazing and shelter.

SHEEP BREEDING FARM

The Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hisar, was established in 1968 in collaboration with the Government of Australia under the Colombo Plan to upgrade the nation’s sheep flocks and improve the quality of wool. The breeding farm was established on approximately 6,477 acres of land, leased by the Haryana Government for 20 years. Later, 4,028 acres of land was taken back by the government.

At present the total land available with the farm is 2,456 acres. As many as 500 Corriedale, 50 Merino and 310 Dorset sheep were imported from Australia, and 9,875 Rambouillet sheep were imported from America to establish the Sheep Breeding Farm. Over 20,111 acclimatised breeding stud rams, 500 beetal bucks and 1,765 breeding ewes of exotic breeds and their crosses have been supplied up till now.

Large areas of pastures have been provided to the farm so that maximum production can be obtained from the sheep. The utilisation of fodder by various classes of sheep and goats has to be managed very carefully. A system of segregation is used to group sheep according to management and nutritional requirements. Those sheep with high nutritional priority are grazed on legume pasture crops in preference to cereals or grasses.
Round-the-clock power, here a reality

With the creation of new model power supply system, Chirod, Singhran and Chuli Bagrian villages of district Hisar are the first, second and third villages of the state to qualify for 24-hour supply

Arun Mehta

In a state that witnessed farmers’ agitation for the waiver of their electricity bills, a positive change is taking place— villagers are willing to shun power thefts and pay their bills regularly, if they get uninterrupted power supply at their homes. Hisar district’s three villages are leading the way for others in this direction.

After Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda launched a scheme to provide 24-hour power supply to Chirod and Singhran villages in Hisar, more and more villages are opting for getting power supply on urban mode by paying their bills honestly.

The Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam and Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam have started erecting the new safe and reliable system of power supply in about 300 villages fed from 215 feeders of 11 KV level to give 24-hour power supply. The work has been started with the voluntary consent of villagers and the feeders have been selected on first-come, first-served basis.

24-HOUR SUPPLY TO FIVE VILLAGES

In villages, fed through Chirod, Chuli Bagrian (Hisar) and Mandholi (Bhiwani) feeders, the system has already been completed and started. Thus, Chirod, Singhran, Chuli Bagrian (in Hisar), Siwach and Mandholi (in Bhiwani) are the first five villages in Haryana to get 24-hour power supply with the creation of power supply system of new model. Chirod, Singhran and Chuli Bagrian villages of district Hisar are the first, second and third villages of the state to qualify for 24-hour power supply.

With the erection of insulated cables by replacing bare low-tension conductors and relocation of all meters in “Pillar Boxes” outside the houses, the line losses in these villages have come down considerably. Hence, the villages qualify to get 24-hour power supply for domestic and commercial purposes. The supply in villages has already been increased by three hours— from 11 hours a day to 14 hours daily.

The Haryana Power Distribution Corporations (Discoms) intend to give supply to villages on the pattern of towns. By launching the schemes of zero power cut and supply on urban pattern and special programme for maintenance and strengthening of whole of the distribution system in the state, the Discoms have stepped forward.

Now it is the turn of consumers to come forward with their consent to have the new system in villages. For this, the villagers are to take connections in all houses and get relocated the meters outside the houses in pillar boxes.

On request by Panchayats, the Nigams would organise camps in the villages to give on-the-spot connections in all houses and get relocated the meters outside the houses in pillar boxes. No theft cases would be framed in case there was some defect detected during relocation of meters. However, the defective meters would be replaced while installing in the “Pillar Boxes”.

In Haryana AT & C losses are in the range of 20 to 30 per cent in urban domestic feeders and 50 to 70 per cent in rural areas, which mainly consists of commercial losses. These can be successfully brought down to 10 to 15 per cent in city areas and 20 to 25 per cent in rural areas.

The writer is a freelance journalist
TOURISM ON A HIGH
A photo feature by Vinay Malik who hits National Highway No. 1
When in 2001 Census, Haryana showed the lowest sex ratio in the country, i.e. 861 females per 1,000 males, it created an alarming situation in the state. But the conscious efforts taken by the Haryana Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, have helped in bridging the gap between the male and female ratio. The sex ratio of Haryana which was 861 in 2001 increased to 879 (final figure) in 2011. The final figures of Census 2011 show a gain of 18 points in the sex ratio. Similarly, there is a gain of 15 points in the child sex ratio (0-6 years). The child sex ratio of Haryana which was 819 in 2001 has now increased to 834.

According to the final figures of the Census 2011 released last month, the population of Haryana is 2.53 crore consisting of 1,34,94,734 males and 1,18,56,728 females; as many as 1,65,09,359 persons live in rural areas, whereas 88,42,103 persons belong to urban areas.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The decadal growth of population is 19.9 per cent with an absolute number of 42,06,898 persons. There is a considerable growth in urban area, i.e. is 44.6 per cent as compared to 9.8 per cent in rural area.

It reveals that people are shifting from rural to urban areas for better infrastructural facilities, education and employment opportunities, whereas the overall urban growth rate of India as a whole is 31.8 per cent. The density of the state is 573 as compared to 382 of India.

The Scheduled Caste population has increased to 51,13,615 from 40,91,110 in 2001. Also the percentage share has increased to 20.2 per cent from 19.3 per cent. Maximum SC population has been recorded in district Fatehabad, i.e. 30.2 per cent, followed by Sirsa 29.9 per cent and Ambala 26.3 per cent. Mewat with 6.9 per cent has reported the lowest SC population share, he added.

While revealing the Census figures, Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations Haryana, Mr G Bapuji said that the sex-ratio which was 861 in 2001 had now increased during 2011 Census to 879 with a gain of 18 points. However it is less than the all India sex ratio which is 943. Highest sex ratio has been reported in district Mewat (907), followed by Fatehabad (902) and Rewari (898).

LOWEST SEX RATIO

The lowest sex ratio has been reported in district Gurgaon (854), followed by Sonipat (856) and Jhajjar (862). District Panchkula has shown a commendable improvement of 50 points from 823 in 2001 to 873 in 2011. Sex ratio has increased in all the districts, except...
Highest improvement in sex ratio has been recorded in Panchkula (from 823 to 873), followed by Faridabad (from 826 to 873) and Panipat (from 829 to 864)

Mahendragarh where it decreased by 23 points from 918 to 895, and Rewari where it decreased by 1 point from 899 to 898 in 2011.

He said that the child sex ratio (0-6 sex ratio) of Haryana had increased from 819 in 2001 to 899 in 2011. During last decade highest gain of 47 points have been registered in Kurukshetra district- from 771 in 2001 to 818 in 2011, followed by Sirsa 45 points (from 817 in 2001 to 862 in 2011) and Panchkula 34 points (from 829 in 2001 to 863 in 2011).

Maximum fall has been reported in Mahendragarh, i.e. -43 (from 818 in 2001 to 775 in 2011), followed by Rewari -24 (from 811 in 2001 to 787 in 2011), Jhajjar -19 (from 801 in 2001 to 782 in 2011) and Bhiwani -9 (from 841 in 2001 to 832 in 2011).

LITERACY FRONT

On the literacy front, Haryana has shown a little higher level literacy as compared to India as a whole. “In India, 73 per cent population has been reported as literate, while in Haryana 75.6 per cent population has been reported as literate,” Deputy Director, DCO Haryana, Mr Vinod Babbarn, told Haryana Review.

Literacy level has increased from 67.9 per cent in 2001 to 75.6 per cent in 2011. Maximum literacy rate has been recorded in Gurgaon (84.7 per cent), followed by Panchkula (81.9 per cent) and Ambala (81.7 per cent), whereas the lowest literacy rate has been recorded in Mewat (54.1 per cent), even though it is adjacent to the most literate district, Gurgaon.

The work participation has increased in urban area from 31.5 per cent in 2001 to 32.9 per cent in 2011 census, whereas in rural area it has decreased from 42.9 per cent in 2001 to 36.4 per cent in 2011. It indicates that population is shifting to urban areas.
Hooda reaches out to U'khand Govt, victims

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Uttarakhand Government and the Chief Minister, Mr Vijay Bahuguna, in this hour of crisis and need, the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, has offered to adopt and rebuild as many villages as he would want, besides offering generous help and assistance of every kind to the Uttarakhand Government. Haryana Review learns that the state government will rebuild at least 25 ravaged villages in the hill state.

“The state government will provide every possible help and resources needed for relief and rehabilitation of the victims of the worst-ever natural calamity, and also in rebuilding as many devastated villages as Mr Bahuguna desires. We would also help in the reconstruction of temples and other structures”, Mr Hooda assured Mr Bahuguna whom he met at the mini-secretariat in Dehradun.

The Haryana Government had earlier done this in Gujarat when the earthquake struck and in Bihar during the floods.

HOUR OF NEED AND CRISIS

“The Uttarakhand Government is working effectively in this hour of crisis and we shall stand shoulder to shoulder with the state government and Mr Bahuguna in this hour of need and crisis”, Mr Hooda said, adding that the magnitude of the natural calamity is unprecedented. He expressed grief over the demise of the pilgrims from different parts of the country.

The Chief Minister said that disaster centres had been set up by the Haryana Government for providing information, help and relief material to the stranded people in Dehradun, Haridwar and Rishikesh. Besides, Haryana Roadways buses have been deployed to carry stranded persons to their respective destinations.

Mr Hooda lamented that some persons were criticising the Uttarakhand Government for cheap publicity. The Congress party is also contributing in a big way in the relief works in this time of need. He appealed to the people not to lose their morale.

A team, constituted by the Haryana Government under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Mr P K Das, which has been stationed at Dehradun to provide active help to the needy people.
Panasonic to invest Rs 520 crore in Haryana

Japan’s electronic major Panasonic has plans to invest Rs 520 crore at Model Economic Township at Jhajjar within next five years. The company had already made a huge investment of Rs 425 crore in Jhajjar. This was disclosed in a meeting between the Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Mr Daizo Ito, President and Mr Hisao Yamone, Managing Director, Panasonic India Pvt Ltd.

The Company would make this investment in two phases and out of this total investment, Rs 220 crore would be invested through major suppliers of Panasonic.

Domestic workers to get health insurance

Domestic workers in Haryana will get cashless health insurance under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, a scheme for providing health care to BPL families.

Domestic workers covered under this scheme will get the benefit of smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs 30,000 per annum for a family of five, a spokesman of ESI Health care department said.

Under the scheme, contribution of the Centre is 75 per cent of annual premium. Additionally, the cost of smart card, estimated at Rs 60, is borne by the Central Government while remaining 25 per cent is borne by the state government.

Scheme to promote higher education of girls

With a view to encouraging adolescent rural girls for pursuing higher education, the state government has introduced ‘Adolescent Girls Award Scheme Haryana’. The Women and Child Development Minister, Mrs Geeta Bhukkal, said that these awards would be given away to those six adolescent girls from each block who had obtained first, second and third positions in their matriculation and senior secondary examinations conducted by Haryana Board of School Education.

Kaul takes oath as CJ of Punjab & Haryana HC

The Haryana Governor, Mr Jagannath Pahadia, has administered the oath of office to Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Besides the family members of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and the judges of Delhi and Punjab and Haryana High Court, the function was attended by the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Punjab Chief Minister, Parkash Singh Badal, the Haryana Education Minister, Mrs Geeta Bhukkal, and senior officers of Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh.

GPF interest at 8.7 pc per annum

The Haryana Government has decided to fix the rate of interest at 8.7 percent per annum on the deposits of General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds with effect from April 1, 2013 which will be followed for the financial year 2013-14. A spokesman of the Finance Department said that a notification to this effect has been issued by the Department. The State Government has also fixed the rate of interest for various loans and advances given to its employees for the financial year 2013-14.

Hareda to provide interest free loans

The Department of Renewable Energy, Haryana (HAREDA) has decided to provide interest free loans to such industrial, commercial, institutional, municipal consumers who are willing to implement the energy conservation measures in their premises. A spokesman of HAREDA said that the implementation of energy efficiency measures involves investment, which sometimes is inhibitory and therefore, the entrepreneurs are reluctant to implement the Energy Conservation Measures suggested in the energy audit reports.

Sessions Judges designated as children’s courts

Committed to the welfare, growth and protection of children in the state, the Haryana Government has decided to designate all Sessions Judges and Additional Sessions Judges, except the Additional Sessions Judges (ad hoc) and Fast Track Courts, at each district headquarters, as Children’s Courts, in their respective area of jurisdiction.

Mrs Sumita Misra, Director General Women and Child Development department said this had been done to ensure speedy trial of offences against children and violations of child rights under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

Under Section 28 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, special courts under relevant sections of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, shall also be held in special courts under the POCSO Act, 2012 to try offences, she said, according to an official release here.
Up and close with crocodiles

A firsthand account of the author’s experience of visiting the Crocodile Breeding Centre in Kurukshetra
April and May, the period when a female crocodile lays eggs, my friend and I decided to see the beast in its natural habitat, which was obviously an insane decision, despite knowing that reptiles become protective of their laid eggs. Walking around the three natural ponds of water inside the Crocodile Breeding Centre, in Bhaur Saidan village, Thanesar, 22 km from Kurukshetra (on the Kurukshetra-Pehowa state highway), didn’t seem frightful.
when a white-breasted Kingfisher perched gracefully on a tree along with the flock of Egrets in the muddy grassland that took my breath away. As we walked further we encountered the bats hanging topsy-turvy holding to branches of a tree. Then came a call from my friend directing my camera towards a crocodile sitting in the open on the bank of the pond. Whilst taking the picture, my friend signaled me to another crocodile crossing the narrow pathway that I eventually missed to attend and capture in my camera. Later, my friend told me the aquatic tetrapod crept about 15 feet away from him to cross the narrow strip of land sandwiched between the two ponds. Ugh! That was pretty close! But we still ignored the dangers of walking inside the crocodile home and kept advancing our foot as if walking around the obedient farm animals in an isolated holding.

When the crocodile came across my friend a rush of adrenaline went up his body, which thrilled him with an encouragement to keep pacing ahead. Our greed of encountering more and more crocodiles didn’t stop until again I was pointed towards a big crocodile resting in peace on a small mound close to the bank of the pond. In a rapid gait and with much excitement, we climbed up to the mound and trotted close to the crocodile forgetting that our each careless step was heading us into the mouth of the beast. I was eager to take a close up picture of the crocodile, which my 55-300mm lens wouldn’t capture, from a distance.

WORLD OF PREDATORS

The beauty of a crocodile is too seducing that on seeing the gate of the high-fenced breeding centre open many innocent passersby, for whom it was probably the first trip to the wildlife protected area, also took the chance to enter into the world of the predators. And here, it was not the territory of one big hunter; but 24-25 crocodiles.
Behind us at a good distance came all the curious visitors with children, incognizant of the dangers in the wild, clamoring in the excitement. They stood as spectators at a distance but still were inside the crocodile dwelling. To take a better picture from the close distance I walked nearer to the crocodile and this time I was about 8-10 feet away when the crocodile looked with his fiendish eyes at me with an unpleasant countenance, a sight not to be forgotten for life. Was this a warning given to me to move back and stop disturbing the already irritated creature?

NARROW ESCAPE
I ignored the threat of the ferocious hunter again. My friend, who had occupied a place behind me, too didn’t budge. The big killer that wanted solitude did not take this kindly. She took no time in opening her eyes again, giving me a terrifying look and charged with a vigorous speed and big opened jaw of death. While running for life, my friend, concerned about my safety, grabbed my hand and pulled me harder to rescue me from getting into the clutches of blood-thirsty jaw.

My friend’s forceful draw led me to lose balance on my feet causing me to fall in a sideway roll, on the Fortunately, by then the crocodile stopped following us and moved back to its place of resting. Being a fast short distance runner this hunter ran only 10-15 feet, probably she was much interested in regulating her body temperature in the open or might be in a mood to lay eggs or it was only a grand warning to let her have privacy.

Encounter with the crocodile in the wilderness gave us a practical wisdom that no matter what one is informed about the wildlife park being safe for the visitors, it should never be taken for granted. A designated wildlife park is a sanctuary for animals to live and breed without human interference and is protected by law. One’s safety is in one’s own hand. Always follow the rules of wildlife nature park. There is nothing more important than saving your own life.

MORAL TEACHING
Prior research on the internet had informed me about a high mound inside the Crocodile Conservation and Breeding Centre been erected to let the visitors see the crocodiles from a close range but such a place was not evident to the visitor or we might have inattentively ignored the presence of any such safe elevated place. An opportunity to walk inside the crocodile territory was big enough to forget about inquiring the park officials on the designated safe area for the visitors.

The memorable encounter with the crocodile in the wild will remain a moral teaching not to be forgotten.

The writer is a traveller and freelance journalist.

About the centre
The Crocodile Breading Centre is located in a six-acre piece of land, adjoining the Bhureeshwar temple, at Bhor Saidan village in Pehowa tehsil of Kurukshetra district. There were about 10 crocodiles when the pond was acquired by the Haryana Forest Department in 1986. Currently, the official number has increased to 25. The care of the predators is done by the Forest Department. There is a full-time guard and wildlife sub-inspector deputed at the centre.
Tosham: A trip back

Dev Brat Vashisth

Haryana has a special status in the country and world over in terms of religion, spirituality and history. The great battle of Mahabharata was fought in Kurukshetra and the world’s most religious and diplomatic book, Bhagwad Gita, which inspires people of all religions, castes and countries, was also written here. There are many places of historical interest in Haryana.

One such historical place with ancient background is Tosham, a small hill town in Bhiwani district. According to geologists, fifty thousand years ago, there was a sea and Tosham was its end. But due to the occurrence of an earthquake, the sea vanished and was replaced by large mounds of sand and mountains.

Surrounded by Aravali hills, Tosham is one of the oldest towns of district Bhiwani. It is situated at the base of a large hill (Tosham Hill). In ancient times there was thick forest known as ‘Salav Van’ around Tosham.

**CARVED MANUSCRIPTS**

Carved manuscripts on stones are found in the mid when one goes up the hill. These manuscripts were first noticed by Lord Cunigham in the year 1875. It is presumed that these manuscripts belong to Buddha period or date back to first century or so.

There are three manuscripts dating back to the Gupta period. One of the manuscripts is supposed to have been engraved by Acharya Achal Bhatt, son of Ravali, who belonged to the period of Gautam Tong.

On another manuscript, one chakra is engraved. Similar chakra has also been found on the golden seals of Raja Ghatotkacha belonging to the Gupta period. Some historians describe this chakra as Vishnu Chakra. The design of this chakra is similar to Ashok Chakra, our national emblem. The engraved words on these stones have become very dim.

In the middle of the town there is one temple of Baba Mungipa on the Tosham hill at a height of about seventy or eighty feet. Baba Mungipa was a great saint of the area who lived here centuries back.
According to legend, this hill was his place of devotion and he used to sit here in samadhi for hours. One day while he was sitting in samadhi, one cow came over and disturbed him. He tried to push away the cow by waving his hands. The cow ran away, fell down from the hill and died on the spot. Baba Mungipa felt responsible for the death of the cow and sacrificed his life in guilt. It is also believed that Rani Chanderbal, sister of Raja Bharathari, used to offer prayer on the samadhi of Baba Mungipa and light a lamp in his memory.

FOLLOWERS OF BABA MUNGIPA

Even today, there are a large number of followers of Baba Mungipa not only in this area but throughout the country. In some metropolitan cities, name of certain business houses, shops and establishments are kept on the name of Baba Mungipa.

On every Tuesday, a huge mela is organised in which people from all walks of life come to pay obeisance to the Baba's temple by offering prasad and performing pooja. Samadhi of Baba is situated in the temple. In Tosham, most of the functions like wedding, child birth, inauguration etc are performed by invoking the Baba's blessings.

There are eight ponds on the hill, among them Panchtirthi pond is supposed to be the most sacred pond. It is believed that during their exile (Agyatvas), Pandvas stayed here for some time and took bath in this pond for nearly thirteen days. People of this area believe that the water of this pond is as sacred as that of Ganga. Other ponds are Gyarsia, Surya, Puri, Indra Kunds etc.

On the top of the hill is a wireless centre which was established some five decades back.

On the outskirts of Tosham, while going towards Hisar, there is one unique structure on the right hand hill, known as ‘Prithvi Raj Ki Kachehrī’. The structure is built of lime and bricks and no wood or steel has been used in it. It has twelve open gates. According to some historians, Prithvi Raj Chauhan used to cover the fort of Hansi from Tosham. Prithvi Raj's godown at Tosham was always full of food grains. According to well known historian Ibn Battuta, the gun powder godowns of Pandavas were spread from Kurukshetra to Tosham.

Tosham was also linked with rail line till mid of the twentieth century. Remains of rail engine water filling tank are still there. The tank has been dismantled but the pillars of the tank are intact. Tosham-Bawani Khera road is also built on the same rail track.

BIGGEST STONE CRUSHING CENTRE

During the British regime, Tosham was the main centre to supply stone ballasts laid on both sides of rail lines. There are nearly sixty stone crushing plants in Tosham and it is supposed to be the biggest stone crushing centre in Haryana.

Now Tosham has been upgraded to sub-divisional headquarters of Bhilwani District. The old rail line should also be revived and some stone-based big industry should be established here to give an impetus to development in this region.

The writer is a freelance journalist
Like any other student in the class, his first tryst with the Mount Everest was restricted to a mere general knowledge fact that it is the world’s highest peak. And later on, he learnt in books about Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, who were the first ones in the world to scale the Everest, but minus the information about how they did it.

Till last September, Shubham Kaushik was totally clueless about how easy or difficult the Everest terrains could be which had so far taken 210 lives of mountaineers, including some of the top names in the business.

But a pep talk by the former director of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling, Col Neeraj Rana, last year, at his school, St Lawrence School, Sanawar, was enough to encourage him to be part of the Everest expedition. And the rest is history.

On the early morning of May 21, 17-year-one-month old Shubham Kaushik, who hails from Garhi Kesri village in Sonipat district, became the youngest from the state to scale
Everesters during the expedition

the Mount Everest. He along with five other teenagers from the St Lawrence School, Sanawar; (near Solan in Himachal Pradesh) not only made to the top of the world but also created two world records of being the world’s youngest team and only school team to scale the Everest.

Ajay Sohal (16 years and five months), Fateh Singh Brar (16 years and 10 months), Hakikat Singh Grewal (16 years and 8 months), Prithvi Chahal (17 years and 2 months), Guribadat Singh (17 years and 3 months) and Raghav Juneja (15 years and 7 months) were the other members of the team. While six boys of the seven-member team made it to the summit, chest pain and mechanical error in oxygen cylinder forced one member (Hakikat Singh) to return just a couple of hundred metres away from achieving the dream height of 8,848 m.

EVERTERS

To be called an Everester for the rest of his life, Shubham defeated the adverse climatic conditions and jet storm, stretched human limits to maximum and saw death from close quarters, which he had not even imagined in his wildest dreams.

“I have no words to express my feelings. Being at the top of the world is the ultimate thing I can imagine for myself,” said Shubham while sharing his feelings after scaling the Mount Everest.

“My parents gave me a green signal for the Everest expedition. But later on, when they came to know about the risk factor involved in the expedition, they tried hard to convince me to back out,” recalled Shubham, a class 12th science stream student. “But I did not back off. And here I am, hale and hearty and an Everester for life.”

While crossing a gorge with a ladder in the Kumbu icefall (in between base camp and camp 1), Shubham slipped at the last step and had almost gone down by 10 feet. But luck was on his side and somehow, his sherpa managed to get him out. “It was a scary incident. I had a brush with death. I was saved because of my sherpa and the safety rope,” said Shubham remembering the incident.

For quite some time, there has been a debate on the difficulty of climbing Everest today. Certain things have improved and give an edge to the climber, but the altitude is the same and so is the lack of oxygen (one-third of sea level). The uncertainty of the climate also remains the same; route taken and the gruelling task of climbing remains the same.

The brain and body begin to shut down after 26,000 ft. When one makes it to the summit, one still needs to find the reserves to descend. There is no rest above 26,000 ft and that’s why it is called the death zone.

“Before leaving the camp 4 for the final summit on the night of May 20, the thought of trekking non-stop for about 26 hours really scared me. I knew the weather conditions would be tough and I would not be able to rest till the time I was back to Camp 4. Because of the high altitude, the grey brain cells start dying and it affects the alertness,” said Shubham.

Recalling a ghastly incident, Shubham said, “While on the way back, one of the team members, Guribadat, sat for a while to take some rest. Suddenly he realised that he was sitting next to a dead body and it sent shivers down his spine and he literally started running without looking back till he reached back to the camp 4.”

“Later on we discovered that he was the same guy from Bangladesh, who did a mountaineering course along with us in Darjeeling in October last year. At that time his daughter was just six months old. We were shocked and felt really sad and sorry for his family,” he told Haryana Review.

PARENTS’ SUPPORT

Apart from arranging funds for training and final expedition, Shubham’s parents, especially his mother, remained in a state of unrest till the time Shubham tasted success in the Mission Everest and was back to Kathmandu.

“Before going for the final push to summit on May 17, Shubham called me and said anything can happen, so you have to be strong. After this I couldn’t sleep till the time he made it to the summit and reached back to the base camp on May 23,” said mother Rekha.

“During the entire 45-day expedition, Shubham’s mother fasted for his son’s safety and lived only on fruits. It was only after he returned to the base camp that she took food,” said proud father Ashok.

Shubham’ father had to face a lot of criticism for allowing him to go to the Everest. “All the relatives, and especially Shubham’s grandfather, were after my life for allowing him to go to the expedition. But since the time Shubham has scaled the mountain, his grandfather is taking pride in his achievement,” said Ashok.

The writer is Senior Sports Journalist with the Hindustan Times, Chandigarh
Romancing with monsoon

Artists have always sought solace in translating the essence of the monsoon into their medium of art

The exciting monsoon time is here again. As the dark clouds accompanied by thunder showers and lightning drench the earth with rain, marking the end of hot, dusty and parched days, people burst into joyful mood to celebrate the onset of the rainy season.

Mythology also speaks of monsoon rainstorms accompanied by menacing bolts of lightning as expressions of God Indra's wrath. In Hindu mythology, the onset of monsoon heralds the Chaturmasa (the period of anxiety) as Lord Vishnu goes to sleep during this time. During this period, it's considered auspicious to perform noble deeds like *daan* (charity), *vrat* (fast) and *jap* (prayer) and *hom* (purifying worship). It's a coincidence that the Muslim period of Ramzaan also begins during this time.

If the monsoon in India signifies religiosity to the spiritually inclined, it promises romance to those who are artistically and poetically inclined. It is the mainstay of almost every medium of art. As the pulse of India throbs in its art and culture, rain and the magical season of monsoon have always been the throbbing heart of Indian life and culture.

The artists have always sought solace in translating the essence of the monsoon into their medium of art, whether in Ragamala paintings, poetry or Malhar ragas or songs. The rendering of a monsoon raga is a dialogue between the rasa and the artist and a fusion of the individual and nature which finds its expression in the longing for a connection with a lover, with nature or even with God, which is the core feeling of the artist.

**FEELING OF LONGING AFTER SEPARATION**

The dominant mood is of longing after separation and the monsoon complimenting the turbulence in the minds of anxious lovers. In Kalidasa’s classic work ‘Megha Doot’, the Cloud Messenger uses the monsoon as a metaphor to convey yearning for love. The poem blends man and nature, as the cloud and lover become inseparable symbols of that core feeling – longing.

“The monsoon season is rich in emotional diversity. It helps nature, emotions and art to converge,” remarks Somdutt, an artist based in Jind. “During monsoon, the ambience is one of romance and joy. Dark brooding clouds,
accompanied by thunder showers and lightning, the falling of rain create a romantic mood that allows the artist to relate to this aspect of monsoon. Therefore, a common theme in monsoon is that of pining for one’s lover, be that one’s beau, husband or God,” he adds.

The Ragamala painting of art guru Somdutt, inspired by rain, depicting Lord Krishna swinging in jhoola with Radha in ecstasy, epitomises the spiritual expression of divine love. Painted in oil on wood, it shows a remarkable adaptation of the oil technique to the delicate details and meticulous workmanship of the miniature compositions.

BIRDS AND ANIMALS IN MONSOON

“Why only humans, even birds and animals call out to the monsoon,” says Shakti Singh Ahlawat, another accomplished artist from Rohtak.

“Watching a peacock dancing in a garden to the tune of overcast sky is a treat for the eyes. And, not just the peacock, the chaatak (Jacobin Cickoo), so the myth goes, is seen only during the monsoon months as it drinks only rainwater. White cranes across the dark skies heading towards their nests, is a visual delight to behold,” he remarks.

His oil painting, depicting a peacock dancing on the rooftop, welcoming the monsoon showers in the backdrop of overcast sky, encapsulates with great skill the sensual form rendered with a rare delicacy and sensitivity. The use of vibrant colours has always been his forte. His deft style and rich brush strokes bring forth the enchanting form of nature in his own impeccable style.

“With monsoon, come thoughts of childhood,” quips Neenu Vij, another much-acclaimed artist from Panchkula. “Watching the kids in the area playing in rainwater and sailing paper boats transports me back to my own childhood memories. I get nostalgic. As a little girl, I too, used to play in rainwater along with my friends and would have a lot of fun. Nobody would ever stop us from having the time of our lives,” she reminisces.

Her oil painting, depicting children sailing paper boats, takes you straight to your childhood and fills you with pure and selfless happiness. The exquisite details and the delicate treatment of avid colours of her bold sweeping brush strokes capturing the beauty of nature on canvas enhance the sheer joy of the monsoon.

“Nature has always been the prime attraction for me,” echoes Jaspreet Singh, another artist from Haryana. “Each season has its own attraction. But monsoon is marked by a multitude of nature’s splendours – darkened sky, thunder, streaks of lightning and downpour of rain, which provide an exquisite varying panorama of nature,” he remarks.

DEPICTING CHILDREN PLAYING IN RAIN

His works are an interesting combination of his fascination for nature and his observation to interpret his visions and imagination in a way that relates to the real world. His oil paintings focusing on monsoon, depicting children playing in rain and splashing rain water on each other against the backdrop of overcast sky and rainbow, and meeting of lovers under umbrella on a rainy day, mesmerise and grip the imagination of the viewers.

Climate-wise and weather-wise, we are lucky because we can experience all the seasons here in India. Each season has its own charm and appeal. Monsoon is, no doubt, one of the most beautiful seasons of the year marked by a fluorescent urge in nature.

Vast expanse of overcast sky may tempt some to stay blissfully indoors and enjoy the rain while sipping a hot cup of coffee or tea and eating steaming pakoras. Yet again, there are others who love to go out for a long drive or to soak themselves in rain. Everybody enjoys the monsoon to the fullest. The magic of rain works on one and all.

The writer is a freelance journalist
Judge Yourself

QUIZ- 11

Answers to the quiz are given below in the reverse...

Q1. Where is the Motilal Nehru Sports School situated?
   A: Rai (Sonipat)
   B: Pataudi (Gurgaon)
   C: Thanesar (Kurukshetra)
   D: Morni (Ambala)

Q2. Which place in Haryana was the political as well as the social working capital of freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai?
   A: Ambala
   B: Jhajjar
   C: Jind
   D: Hisar

Q3. How many divisions has Haryana been divided into?
   A: Three
   B: Four
   C: Six
   D: Eight

Q4. Famous for the production of Basmati Rice, which district of Haryana is known as ‘Dhan ka katora’?
   A: Sirsa
   B: Karnal
   C: Panchkula
   D: Jind

Q5. Who was the founder of Haryana Vikas Party?
   A: Chaudhary Devi Lal
   B: Chaudhary Bani Lal
   C: Chaudhary Bhajan Lal
   D: None of the above


QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.”

-Mark Twain

Health tips for rainy season

In order to remain healthy during the rainy season, follow these tips:

**Skin**: With the onset of monsoon, there is increase in the number of preventable skin conditions, like fungal infections, bacterial infections etc. Increase in humidity results in problem of prickly heat.

Fungal infections lead to red itchy ring-like spots on the body, especially groin, hands, feet and scalp. These can be easily prevented by taking a bath twice a day, wearing cotton clothes, drying under-clothing in the sun along with bathing towel; in case there is no sun, then iron the clothes so that they are not wet. Use of steroids, like betnovate clop tenovate, should be avoided.

Prickly heat is due to blockage of sweat glands. Patient has pricking sensation. To treat this, take regular bath, wear loose cotton clothes and take lots of fluid--water, lassi, nimbu paani etc. (By Dr S D Mehta, Dermatologist)

**Diet**: Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly, particularly leafy vegetables and cauliflower, which not only contain larvae and worms, but also collect dirt from the streets. Garlic, pepper, ginger, asafoetida (hing), cumin powder, turmeric and coriander help enhance digestion and improve immunity.

**Clothes**: One should wear cotton clothes and loose clothes, and use anti-fungal talcum powder in areas more prone to fungal infections.

Avoid wearing clothes, like jeans, which do not dry immediately. Wear cotton most of the time as it is skin friendly. Those who are having diabetes need to take extra care of their feet these days. Please do not walk barefoot. Avoid wearing wet shoes.

**Cleanliness**: Standing water after floods is a breeding place for mosquitoes. Drain all standing water and empty water from outdoor items such as old tires, cans and flower pot bases. Protect yourself with an appropriate insect repellent.

Malaria and jaundice are common due to stagnant water and contaminated food. Use mosquito repellants, creams and nets if you live in mosquito-prone areas or places with stagnant water.

**Exercise**: Exercise is an important part of your monsoon health care regime and it’s very essential to look at different option to regulate the exercise to stay active, fit and healthy. There are multiple exercise options you can try, if you’re comfortable working out indoors.
WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

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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SALUTING

BLOOD DONORS

Your contribution has helped us save many lives

+ 2,41,728 blood units were collected in blood banks in Haryana during 2010-11
+ 90.58% blood units were collected from voluntary blood donors in govt blood banks

Who all can donate blood?

Any healthy person between the age of 18 and 65 years who weighs more than 45 kg and whose
Hb is not less than 12.5 gms/dL

Join the movement to save lives
Life goes on despite rain

Photograph by Vinay Malik