

# ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



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## No One Should Remain Thirsty During Summers: Chief Minister

**Jaipur,** Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has directed for smooth supply of drinking water and to speed up the repairing works of hand pumps and tube wells in the summer season. He asked to make an action plan to reduce the time in such areas where drinking water is supplied once in three days and ensure that people get water at least once in 48 hours. Shri Gehlot on Thursday was reviewing the drinking water arrangements across the state through video conference. He said, "The demand for water will increase in summers and the State Government's priority is that people should get uninterrupted supply of drinking water. We will make all possible efforts that no one remains thirsty in this summer season."

### Be Prepared To Supply Drinking Water Through Tankers

Chief Minister has asked to ensure supply of quality drinking water and be prepared to supply drinking water through tankers in case of demand. He has asked

to give approval for hand pump and tube well wherever required and complete the repairing works on time. He stressed on water conservation along with water harvesting.

Chief Minister said that large number of labourers has become unemployed during lockdown. Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Water Resources and Energy Department should search possibilities to give work to these labourers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in their projects.

### Weekly Review Meeting Should Be Held At The Department Level

Shri Gehlot directed the District Collector and PHED principal secretary to hold weekly review meeting and monthly review at state level under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. He asked to redress the complaints pertaining to drinking water on time. He also directed to ensure electricity supply by repairing the electricity supply lines that have been dam-



aged recently in the dust storm. Besides, he directed to install RO (reverse osmosis) plants as per requirement by identifying places.

**Collectors Authorised For Contingent Approval Of Rs 50 Lakh**  
PHED Minister Dr B.D. Kalla during

the video conference said that the State Government approving the contingency plan of Rs 65 crore in the month of February, has authorised all district collectors for contingent approval of Rs 50 lakhs. Special directions have been given for transportation of drinking water under

SDRF in four scarcity-hit districts including Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur and Hanumangarh. He said that efforts are being made to complete all schemes on time that are approved under Jal Jeevan Mission. PHED principal secretary Shri Rajesh Yadav gave presentation on the action plan prepared for smooth supply of drinking water and the situation of water distribution in urban and rural areas. He said that the work of digging new tube well, changing the damaged pipeline and non-functional pump set is being done on the recommendation of district collector. He said at present drinking water is being transported daily through 1962 tanker trips in 27 cities, whereas 640 tanker trips daily in 757 villages and hamlets, which could be increased as per the

requirement. He said that 16,610 hand pumps were repaired in the month of April, while 2229 solar based defluoridation plants have been set up at fluoride affected villages and hamlets. He said Rs 295.50 crore has been approved in

the month of March for Prithviraj Nagar Scheme in Jaipur. Population of more than 2 lakh will be benefited with this scheme.

### Punjab Renovates Sirhind Feeder

Water Resources principal secretary Shri Naveen Mahajan said that the Punjab Government had shown positive attitude on few of the main points that were discussed with them. Punjab for the first time in 70 years has renovated canals in 20km area of Sirhind Feeder. Some renovation work was started in Rajasthan area of the feeder, but could not take place due to lockdown. He said that to stop polluted water coming from Punjab, the Punjab government has started the work by making an action plan, which will redress the problem of contaminated water coming into the canals in Sriganganagar.

Chief Secretary Shri D.B. Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shri Niranjan Arya, Principal Secretary Energy Shri Ajitabh Sharma and other officers were present in the video conference.

## Ambamata Mandir The Benevolent Mata who came to Udaipur to heal Maharana Rajsingh



One of the most highly revered Devi temples in the whole of Mewar, Ambamata Mandir, located on a height in the west of Udaipur outside Ambapol, Ambamata Mandir was built by Maharana Rajsingh.

Related to the construction of the Mandir, there are some fascinating details that are

lesser known. It is said that once the erstwhile Maharana Rajsingh had severe eye trouble. Every kind of treatment was given. The Rajyavaidyas did their best. But the Maharana did not get any relief. Some well-wishers suggested that he should go to Ambamata temple in the hills of Arbudanchal and pray to her. Heeding their advice, he decided to do so and gave orders for making preparations for the journey. Incidentally, the night before he was to start, he had the 'darshan' of the Mata in a dream in which she told him that he need not go there and she herself would come to Udaipur. She also indicated the place where she was to appear. In the morning, the Maharana expressed his happiness before all in the palace. He also ordered digging at the place where the idol was to appear. Soon the work started. As the digging progressed the Maharana began to get better. It was a miracle that as soon as the Devi's idol was seen, the Maharana was completely cured. He expressed his desire to have the 'darshan' immediately and was overwhelmed when he saw the idol that had appeared in Chouthmata Chowk located in the courtyard of the present-day temple.

After the appearance of the idol, when the temple was under construction, it was kept on a 'chabutra' outside in a place that had four rooms. It is known as Charanpatka or Charanpaduka and is located outside the temple under a neem tree. Devotees bow before this 'chabutra' before entering the temple. The Maharanas who visit the temple during Navratri and other festivals also do the same. The Maharana also ordered the making of an idol exactly like the one he had seen in his dream. The 'pranpratishta' of both the idols was done on Jestha Shukla DASHMI V.S. 1721.

Built on a 20ft high platform, the Mandir is surrounded by a high wall for safety. There is a 'nakkarkhana' on the entry gate, on either side of which are paintings of lions, the vehicle of the goddess.

The east facing idol with four 'bhujas' has 'kharag' in the upper right hand, 'chakra' in the lower right hand, 'shool' in the upper left hand and 'pan patra' in the lower left hand. It is simple but its finish is highly refined. The facial expressions are exquisite and simultaneously express the feeling of rage for the demons and blessings with 'abhaya mudra' for the devotees. According to an inscription at the feet of the idol, it was made by Sutradhar Surtan.

There is an idol of a lion in the 'sabha mandap' of the 'prasad'. On the door of the 'garbhagriha' there are paintings on either side including those of the Maharanas performing 'puja' and having 'darshan'. The light coming through the glasses of different colours on the walls illuminate the place.

One speciality of this Mandir is the large number of wall paintings of the times of Maharana Rajsingh that are important as they are the oldest specimens of line drawings. One of the interesting one is that of Anchal Pakshi, a huge specimen of Garuda that could fly holding an elephant with its claws. The paintings that had become invisible through coatings of lime have been got restored by Shri Arvind Singh Mewar.

Outside the Mandir is the 'chabutra' of 'charanpaduka' and in front is a huge open 'chowk' where are performed 'gavri', 'ger' and 'garba' dances during Navratri when huge crowds of devotees from distant places throng to the Mandir.

Special rituals are performed in the Mandir during Navratri. There is a separate 'havan kund' for 'havans'.

The 'poshak' of the Mata is changed every Saturday. Devotees who want to offer new ones have a long wait for their turn. The costumes are stitched by the wives of the 'pujaris'.

So highly revered and popular is the Mata in the whole of Mewar that many songs in her praise have been composed and sung with deep devotion. Her greatness is expressed in Gavri songs and folk plays. One of which is based on the slaying of the demon Mahishasur by the Goddess.

It is believed that the Mata fulfils the desires of all her devotees who pray to her sincerely. Infertile women are blessed with children. Persons involved in litigation win the cases while dry wells of farmers get filled with sweet water. Persons who have eye trouble are cured by washing their eyes with water used for the Mata's 'snan' and then applying 'kajal' that comes out of her 'akhand jyot'.

A large number of devotees living in the vicinity of the Mandir regularly attend the morning 'aarti' and begin their day only after her 'darshan'.

Efficiently managed by Shrimad Eklingji, Trust headed by Shriji Arvindsingh Mewar, Ambamata Mandir has become a holy place filled with divine spiritual 'shakti' that attracts a huge number of devout devotees. **Content Courtesy: Dr. S.K. Jugnu**

- Ashok Mathur

Dear Viewers,

We are happy to say that the over thirty articles on different aspects of Udaipur like lakes, palaces, temples, festivals, etc. By Ashok Kumar Mathur have been greatly appreciated by our readers. You may go to [ashokmathuronudaipur.com](mailto:ashokmathuronudaipur.com)

## BJP Ruled States Announce Anti-labour Policies to Lure Industries

Corona pandemic has for the first time exposed the Indian parliamentary democratic system's inherent apathy to the working class so openly. Millions of labour have been abandoned by their employers and also by the respective state governments in the wake of the pandemic to fend for themselves and if they fail to survive in their work place then go to their native villages on their own without any help from the state or the industry which employed them and earned millions in the past years. It has been proved once again that the capitalist economic system is a heartless machine which cares for its profits and nothing else. The Union Government has done nothing to coordinate between different states to facilitate the stay/movement of the workers. More than two million workers have registered in the state of Gujarat to go back to their states. Similar is the case in other states. In Karnataka the state government managed to get three trains cancelled which were to carry workers to their native states under the pressure of building lobby because once they left the industry will not get labour. To make matters the BJP ruled states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have announced anti-labour policies in order to lure the companies pulling out of China to set up their industries in their states.

### New Anti-labour Provisions

The state government of Gujarat has provided in the new laws that new industrial establishments shall be exempted from all labour laws barring the following Minimum Wages Act, Industrial Safety Rules, Employees' Compensation Act, Ordinance to roll out benefits that will be available for 1,200 days.

The state government has also provided that the industries which decide to operate in the state will get hundred percent approvals online within a period of fifteen days. The government of Gujarat has set aside 33000 Hectares of land for the industries that would be coming. The provisions so made will have dangerous repercussions on the condition of the workers in the state. These provisions will provide the employers a free hand to hire and fire workers. There will be no labour inspection or government intervention and no role of unions. The Madhya Pradesh Government has also made similar provisions which make the life of workers insecure and difficult. It provides that establishments with up to 100 workers can hire according to needs and that there is no need of registration for contractors with 50 labourers. It further provides that there shall be no factory inspection for 3 months and worse still no inspection will be required for a firm with less than fifty workers. It also provides for third party inspection which means that the owner can get an inspection done or a report prepared by other agencies than the state. The government of Uttar Pradesh has also made provisions including the increase in shift hours from 8 to 12. The industry has been exempted from all labour laws except some

like Building and Other Construction Workers' Act, 1996, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and a section of Payment of Wages Act. The Uttar Pradesh has approved an Ordinance exempting businesses from the purview of almost all the labour laws for the next three years.

### Scratching 46 Labour Laws to be Replaced by Four Codes

In fact the BJP led NDA government had started making shifts much earlier in its first tenure between 2014 and 2019. The NDA government had decided to scrap 46 labour related laws to be replaced by four codes and in 2019 itself the Code on Wages was approved. In January 2020 the cabinet had given a nod to certain reforms which would make retrenchment of workers easier. According to the new regulations termination of service of a worker at the completion of tenure of fixed-term employment will not be considered retrenchment. At the same time, even though the government has retained the clause that firms with more than 100 employees will need permission from the appropriate government for closure, retrenchment and layoffs, it has provided the flexibility to state governments to reduce or increase this threshold. This will protect state governments like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Uttarakhand that had increased this threshold to 300 workers, government sources said. The bill also proposes a more stringent threshold for a trade union to be considered as a sole negotiating union. A union will be recognised as the sole negotiating union only if it has the support of 75 per cent or more of the workers on the muster roll in an establishment. The earlier version bill required that 66 per cent of the workers should support the union.

### Lockdown Experience: An Eye-opener

The experience of lock down one to three has shown that the governments are not concerned about the life of the labour whether they are voters of one party or the other. They are dispensable for them. The concern of the governments is to boost the industry, get more and more foreign investment and increase the GDP. Workers have been reduced to the state of beggars in just fifty seven days. They have been insulted, beaten by police, harassed by their employers, abandoned by the landlords of the rented shanties where they lived, made to starve and die on the roads and railway tracks and made to think whether they are the citizens of this country or not. Some state governments took initiative to bring back labour from their state but such actions were too late and too small in measure.

### Unity of Working Class : The Only Way Out

The working class which means employees of all cadres, peasants, small shopkeepers, government employees, MNREGA labour, teachers, nurses, doctors, engineers, policemen and practically every individual who earns his/her livelihood by hard work should understand the challenges lying ahead. This capitalist economy will not safeguard their interest unless they are united strongly in solid organizations and have their say in the parliaments and assemblies. Life is going to be tough and hardships are likely to increase. Outside political parties, working class must unite as a class and learn to fight as a class for their interests. Otherwise this system will only extract profits out of their labour and throw them all after using them. Fixed-term employment to be new category

The bill proposes to include mass casual leave in the definition of 'strike' and stipulates that a 14-day notice will have to be given before a strike or lockout. The bill, which received a cabinet nod last week, proposes to include fixed-term employment as a new category. The bill proposes that the fixed term employee will get all statutory benefits like social security, wages, etc. at par with the regular employees who are doing work of the same or similar nature.

The new code will reduce the compensation to retrenched workers to 15 days of average pay for every year of completed service as against 45 days of average pay for every year of completed service proposed in the earlier version of the bill.

In addition, it also introduces the flexibility to allow the central government or the state governments to fix the number of days for which the average pay will be provided as compensation.

The bill proposes to combine the three relevant acts — The Trade Unions Act, 1926, The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 — as the government looks to bring in labour reforms to improve the ease of doing business in India. The bill, after being tabled in the Lok Sabha, is likely to be referred to the standing committee for further discussions.

Parliament has already passed the code on wages earlier this year. The other codes that are in various stages of drafting and approval include the code on social security that is in the drafting stages and the code on occupational safety, health and working conditions code 2019 that is with the standing committee of Parliament after being introduced in the Lok Sabha in July this year.

- Dr.H.S.Chandalia

