

Rabi crops face fury of rain, hailstorm in state; farmers seek special girdawari

Another spell expected in northern areas of state today, says expert



Sonepat DC Manoj Kumar visits a hailstorm-affected field in Khanda village on Saturday; and (right) a disappointed farmer in Bhiwani district. TRIBUNE PHOTOS



TRIBUNE REPORTERS

HISAR, MARCH 2

Massive hailstorm coupled with rain today caused extensive damage to standing rabi crops, especially mustard crops, that are at ripening stages in the state. The wheat crop too suffered damage as gusty winds have flattened the crops.

The farmers from several villages in Hisar, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Fatehabad districts reported damage to the mustard crops due to the hailstorm. Agriculture experts said the mustard flowers could not withstand impact of the hailstorm.

The India Meteorological Department said Rohtak received 47 mm rainfall, Sonapat 8.5 mm, Hisar 26 mm and Ambala 24 mm. Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Karnal Kurukshetra, Panipat, Fatehabad and Bhiwani districts also received rain coupled with the hailstorm.

ML Khichar, head of Agriculture Meteorology Department at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University,



Crops damaged due to hail and rain in Jind. PHOTO: VJENDER MARATHA

"I have never seen such an intense hailstorm in the past 50 years. It has badly damaged the mustard crop in the area."

Balwan Dahiya, farmer in Rai block

DC VISITS VILLAGES TO REVIEW CROP LOSS

SONEPAT: Deputy Commissioner Manoj Kumar today visited rain and hailstorm-affected fields to review the loss of crops. He appealed to the farmers to get themselves registered on the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB)' portal at the earliest. He said the farmers who failed to register on the MFMB portal would not be able to register on the kshatipurti portal. He said the major crop loss had been reported in Kharkhoda, Sonapat and Rai block due to heavy rain followed by hailstorm. — TNS

ty (HAU) Hisar, said low clouds due to Western Disturbances were the main cause behind the hailstorm in the plains.

He said rain would also likely to occur in northern areas of the state tomorrow. The climatic conditions would stabilise after tomorrow, he added.

SONEPAT: Heavy rain accompanied with hailstorm today caused a huge loss to farm-

ers in Kharkhoda and Rai blocks.

"I have never seen such a huge hailstorm in the past 50 years. The hailstorm has damaged the mustard crop badly in the area. It made a loss of approximately 80% to harvested crop while 50-60% to standing crop. And, it also badly damaged wheat crops," said Balwan Dahiya,

a farmer from Badkhalsa village of Rai block.

Rajender Singh, a farmer from Nirthan village of Kharkhoda block, said the wheat crop was laid down due to heavy rain followed by the hailstorm.

"Major loss has been reported from Nirthan, Bidhlan, Khanda, Chaokilka, Sehri, Kharkhoda, Gorad and adjoining vil-

lages of Kharkhoda block. Approximately 60-70% wheat crop damaged due to high speed winds. The other big loss is in mustard crop," he added.

Rajender Kumar, subject matter specialist, said heavy rain and hailstorm have affected crops in 45 villages of Kharkhoda and 28 villages of Rai.

KARNAL: Rain along with hailstorm also lashed Karnal district, causing tension among farmers. Farmers demanded that the government should conduct a special girdawari to compensate them. "Rain, hailstorm and strong wind flattened the crops. The government should compensate the farmers by conducting a special girdawari," said Vikrant Choudhary, a farmer from Karnal district.

ROHTAK: A massive hailstorm accompanied by rain lashed Rohtak district, flattening standing wheat and other crops in many villages. Crops were flattened in Mungam, Sunaria, Baniyani, Samchana and Pakasma villages. The All India Kisan Sabha demanded a special girdawari to assess losses caused to the farmers.

Khaps form 12-member panel to unite agitating farm groups

DEEPPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, MARCH 2

In an effort to bring all farmers organisations on one platform for a united agitation on contentious issues, the sarv khap panchayat today formed a 12 member committee for coordination among farm groups.

Condemning the state government's "repressive measures" against farm activists, khap panchayat leaders said such pressure tactics would not work. The also urged the Central government to accept farmers' demands.

The meeting, presided over by Sarv Jatia Daaran khap in Jind district's Palwa village, was attended by representatives of 55 khap panchayats and 25 farmers' organisations from various parts of Haryana.

Prominent khap leaders including Sube Singh Samain from Samian khap, Pradeep Hooda from Hooda Khap, Sanjay Deswal from Deswal Khap, Satbir Singh from Satrol Khap, Kitab Singh Mor from



A sarv khap panchayat being held in Palwa village of Jind district on Saturday. PHOTO: VJENDER MARATHA

Narwana khap, Omprakash Singh from Binain Khap, Captain Man Singh from Dalal Khap and Rajpal Kalkal from Kalkal Khap.

Azad Palwa of Daaran Khap said the khap leaders have taken an initiative to bring farmer organisations on one platform. He said the coordination committee has been tasked to meet a six-member committee of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and organisations that were outside of the SKM, but part of the ongoing farm agitation.

"This committee will work to bring together all those groups for an efficient agita-

tion. We also adopted resolutions to condemn the brute force used by the police on protesters who want to proceed to the national capital, demand release the arrested farmers as soon as possible and cancel cases registered against the farmers," Palwa said adding they also paid tributes to Shubhakaran Singh.

All the speakers unanimously stressed on the need for waging a fight unitedly on issues like law to ensure the MSP, loan waiver and other demands.

The khap meeting also criticised the government for issuing orders like cancelling passport of those participating in the agitation.

Remarks against judicial officer: HC issues contempt notice

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the issuance of a contempt notice to the petitioners before it and their counsel after taking note of the scandalous remarks made in a petition against a judicial officer.

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar observed the pleadings of the petitioners indicated that certain scandalous remarks were made against the judicial officer without any justifiable cause. It was alleged that the judicial officer's integrity was highly questionable and doubtful and that he was engaged in granting unlawful favours to respondents.

It was also alleged that he indulged in corruption and the petitioners had been victimised by him. The officer had also acted under influence and had indulged in forgery and fabrication of evidence to pressure the petitioner to withdraw the case.

"It is trite law that the plea of mala fides has to be specific and demonstrable. Not only this, the person against whom the mala fides are alleged must be made a party to the proceedings and given a reasonable opportunity of hearing. Admittedly, the judicial officer concerned is not arrayed as party respondent in the present petition," the Bench observed. — TNS

Joint panel formed to inspect illegal dyeing units fails to visit area

MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, MARCH 2

A special team has been formed to inspect the illegal denim dyeing units in the Kundli area of Sonapat district on the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Amid the ongoing farmers' protest and the sealing of the Singhu border near Kundli the joint team is yet to visit the area.

A Delhi-based environmentalist Varun Gulati had filed a complaint with the NGT in December alleging that over 500 dyeing units were operating in residential and non-confirming areas in Faridabad, Sonapat, Gurugram and Jhajjar districts.

The dyeing units are categorised as 'Red Category'. Moreover, they do not have the necessary documents, including an NOC to operate here, the complainant alleged.

His complaint states that the illegal dyeing units were discharging untreated effluents directly to drains or open land which posed a serious health hazard to the people residing in nearby areas.

"There is no common effluent treatment plant in the area due to which the untreated effluent drains that ultimately flow into Yamuna," the complainant said.

Following the complaint,

Blames farmers' protest for delay

the NGT in its order on January 5 constituted a joint panel comprising a member from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), one from Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and an officer of District Magistrates of Sonapat, Faridabad, Gurugram and Jhajjar to take stock of the situation in all districts. The next hearing on the matter is on April 5 and the committees have to submit their report by then.

"Following the NGT's direction, a joint team has been formed in Sonapat comprising Sonapat SDM (a member from the District Magistrate's office), RO Pradeep Kumar from HSPCB and Rishabh Kumar, Scientist-C of CPCB," said Pradeep Kumar.

The inspection was being delayed due to the law and order situation caused by the farmers' protest. The maximum portion of the area being inspected is in Kundli, Nathupur and adjoining areas, which is one of the worst affected areas due to which the member from the CPCB was unable to visit, he said. As soon as the situation normalises, the inspection would be carried out, the RO added.

Hooda seeks compensation for damaged crop

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today demanded compensation for farmers who suffered damage to crops due to hailstorms.

He said the hailstorm damaged crops in many areas of the state, including Rohtak, Jhajjar, Rewari, Bhiwani, Ambala, Kurukshetra Sirsa, Sonapat, Yamunanagar, Karnal, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jind and Charkhi Dadri. —TNS

26 IAS officers shifted, 4 dists get new DCs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

The government today transferred 26 IAS officers with immediate effect.

1990-batch IAS officer Sudhir Rajpal has been given the charge of ACS, Health and Family Welfare, and ACS, Civil Aviation, while Ankur Gupta will handle ACS, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department.

Anand Mohan Sharan is

Change of guard in Sirsa, Hisar, Karnal & Fatehabad

ACS, Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department; Vineet Garg ACS, Higher Education Department; and Shrikant Walgad ACS, Fisheries Department.

G Anupama is the Chief Administrator, Trade Fair Authority, and ACS, School Education Department, while Arun Kumar Gupta is ACS, Town and Country Planning Department and Urban Estates, and

ACS, Industries and Commerce Department.

TL Satyaprakash is Commissioner and Secretary, Mines and Geology, Chief Administrator, Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran, and CEO, Drone Imaging and Information Systems.

Mohd Shayin will handle the charge of Commissioner and Secretary Housing for All, MD, HPGCL and DG,

Supplies and Disposals, while Sanjay Joon is DG, Sainik and Ardh Sainik Welfare and Commissioner, Faridabad Division.

Sanjeev Verma will continue to hold charge of Commissioner, Rohtak Division, but has been given additional charge of MD, Haryana Women Development Corporation Ltd. Ram Kumar Singh is new Sirsa DC, Pradeep Dahiya Hisar DC, Uttam Singh Karnal DC and Rahul Narwal Fatehabad DC.

No departmental proceedings against minister, says coach

MOLESTATION CASE

RAMKRISHN UPADHYAY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

A woman coach, who has levelled molestation charges against state Minister of State for Printing and Stationery, Sandeep Singh, has alleged that no departmental proceedings, as envisaged in Vishakhia Vs State of Rajasthan case decided by the apex court, have been initiated by constituting a committee as the case pertains to harassment of women at workplace.

In arguments submitted through her advocate for the framing of charges, she said specific evidence was collected by the prosecution which was reflected in the summary report under Section 173, CrPC, that after filing of the complaint, the accused had approached her through one Anil for compromise. She said he approached her

through a WhatsApp call on January 5, 2023, with prosecution witness Raj Kumar Mittan, Secretary Athletics Haryana and Joint Secretary, Athletic Federation of India, to compromise.

"The deposition of witness Raj Kumar Mittan is probably supported by the scientific evidence with regard to their telephonic conversation, unfortunately, the copy of the same is not supplied to the victim. It is a settled dictum of law that a victim of sexual offence case is an injured witness and her sole testimony is sufficient to convict an accused, but in the present case, there are testimonies of senior IPS and senior officials of the Sports Department which points out to the fact that immediately after the incident the victim/complainant had confided in them, who instead of encouraging her to fight for her rights, had asked her to ignore the incident," she said.

Govt launches policy for setting up old-age homes with modern facilities

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

The state government has unveiled a policy for setting up and managing state-of-the-art old-age homes with the aim of providing secure and comfortable living space to senior citizens to ensure their physical and emotional well-being.

To be set up under the newly notified Samarth Vriddh SEWA Ashram Scheme, 2024, the old-age homes would have senior citizen-friendly amenities, including medical facilities, physical aids and assisted living devices, recreation facilities, spacious rooms/dormitories, security and adequate staff for their well-being.

A highlight will be the provision of food stuff containing average 1,700 calories per day, besides 50 gm protein to the residents. A provision of Rs 2,500 per month for food for every resident has been made

'PAY & STAY' ALSO AVAILABLE

- Senior citizens having annual income above ₹2 lakh will be able to avail the "pay & stay" facility at old-age homes
- Those above 80 years, persons having annual family income of up to ₹1.80 lakh and women to get preference in admission to old-age homes
- Senior citizens to get food having 1,700 calories daily
- ₹1,000 per month to be paid to every resident for routine expenses

in the policy. There is also a provision of Rs 1,000 every month to every resident for meeting daily expenses.

Under the new scheme, notified by the Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare

of Scheduled Castes and Backward Class and Antyodaya (SEWA) Department, the old-age homes would be run both by the government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

While the government agencies would run old-age homes with financial support from the government, the NGOs would be given a "maintenance grant" of Rs 6,500 per inmate per month.

On the admission criteria, the policy said the prospective residents would be selected by giving preference to the senior citizens above 80 years of age and indigent senior citizens whose family income was less than 1.80 lakh per annum. Female senior citizens would get preference over their male counterparts.

Meanwhile, facility of "pay & stay" would also be available for senior citizens having annual income of 2 lakh and above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Countrywide Promoters Private Limited

OT-14, 3rd Floor, Next Door, Parklands, Sector -76, Faridabad, Haryana-121004

Phone No.: 0120-4492-650 website: www.bptp.com

This Public Notice is being issued in compliance with Memo No. ZP-351/AD(GK)/2024/7363 dated 29.02.2024 issued by the District Town Planner (HQ) for the Director, Directorate of Town & Country Planning - Haryana, Chandigarh ("DTCP").

WHEREAS Countrywide Promoters Pvt Ltd. has developed the residential building/tower for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) i.e. EWS Block-1 as a part of the group housing colony "Park Floor-1" being developed on the land measuring 13.187 acres situated in Sector-77, Faridabad, Haryana as per the terms and conditions of License No. 267 of 2007 dated 03.12.2007 and the DTCP has issued in-principle approval/ provisional Occupation Certificate vide above referred Memo No. ZP-351/AD(GK)/2024/7363 dated 29.02.2024

AND WHEREAS in view of certain deviations from the approved building plans we have been directed to issue this public notice to call upon objections/suggestions from the existing allottees of EWS Block-1 of the Group Housing Scheme. In EWS Block-1 total of 76 EWS units have been constructed from the ground to the fifth floor and 4 units on the sixth floor against pro-rata constructed main dwelling units. As per the earlier approved building plan, EWS Block-1 has 120 EWS units having 20 EWS units on each floor from the ground floor to the fifth floor. It is submitted that the area of EWS unit remains the same. These changes have resulted in an amendment to the earlier approved building plan.

Accordingly, by this Public Notice, we are inviting objections and suggestions from the existing allottees of EWS Block-1 w.r.t. deviations/revisions/amendments from the earlier approved Building Plans of EWS Block-1 of the group housing colony being developed under the above-referred License.

A copy of the earlier approved Building Plans of EWS Block-1, the deviations from the approved site plan and the amended as-built plans of EWS Block-1 (being approved in principle) are available on our website i.e. "www.bptp.com" and the same can also be perused at our aforesaid Office as well as in the office of the Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, Haryana.

Any existing allottee of the unit in EWS Block-1 of the said group housing colony (developed under License No. 267 of 2007 dated 13.02.2007) having any objection/suggestion to the revision/amendment in the earlier approved Building Plans of EWS Block-1, may file his/her/their objection/suggestion in the office of the Senior Town Planner, HSVP Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that none of the existing allottees has any objection/suggestion to the proposed revision/amendment in the Building Plan.

Place: Faridabad
Date: 03.03.2024

Rohit Mohan
For Countrywide Promoters Private Limited



c m y b +

