

Manohar Lal Khattar's Govt wins trust vote comfortably

The BJP-JJP Government in Haryana did not have any difficulty on the floor test on Wednesday, comfortably defeating the no-confidence motion moved against it by the main opposition Congress. The motion was defeated following division of votes.

motion was defeated following division of votes.

At the end of a marathon six-hour discussion on the motion, Speaker Gian Chand Gupta announced in the House that 55 members had voted against the motion while 32 legislators had backed it.

In place of secret voting, which former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda had earlier demanded in the House, the Speaker first asked the members favouring the motion

the Speaker first asked the members favouring the motion to rise from their seats and those against it were asked to stand. A headcount was done later. The 55 members who voted against the motion included 39 from the BJP, 10 of ally Jannayak Janta Party, five

Independents and Gopal Kanda from Haryana Lokhit

Party.

The BJP has 40 members

The BJP has 40 members in the Assembly which includes the Speaker.
Thirty members of the Congress and two Independents - Balraj Kundu and Sombir Sangwan - who had earlier withdrawn support, backed the motion. The poposition camp would have needed 45 members to win the no confidence motion.

needed 45 members to win the no confidence motion.

In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, currently having an effective strength of 88 members, the ruling BJP has 40 members, the JJP 10 and the Congress 30. Seven are Independents, five of whom are supportfund the congression.

Independents, five of whom are supporting the government, while one member is of the Haryana Lokhit Party. While the ruling BJP-JJP was batting on a comfortable wicket with numbers on their side, moving the motion, the first no-trust vote which 16-month old Khattar govern-

ment faced, Leader of Opposition Hooda claimed the ruling dispensation has lost people's trust. He also said it would expose those who were claiming to stand in favour of farmers if they vote against the motion.

Referring to farmers protesting near Delhi's borders against the Centrés new farm laws for more than 100 days, Chief Minister Khattar reached out to opposition telling them that they should stop instigating the peasants and instead come forward and tell farmers to end their agitation.

tion.
Deputy Chief Minister and
IIP leader Dushvant Chautala JJP leader Dushyant Chautala sought to assure that the government will protect the interests of farmers. He said mandis and MSP will continue, notwithstanding opposition's misleading claims.

After the end of the Question Hour, the Speaker admitted the notice of no-confidence motion against the

Council of Ministers and reserved two-hour for discus-sion on it. However, later with many members speaking on it, the discussion went on for six

the discussion went on for six hours.

Earlier, touching upon the issue of farmers who are protesting against the Centre's new farm laws, Hooda said the situation is such that ruling dispensation MLAs cannot even visit their constituencies. "This government has lost the confidence of people. Their MLAs cannot go in their constituencies." he said On the farmers' cannot go in their constituen-cies," he said. On the farmers' issue, Hooda demanded inclu-sion of nearly 250 farmers, who have died during their ongoing agitation, in the obituary ref-erences of the Haryana

erences of the Haryana Assembly. The Leader of Opposition claimed it was the BJP-JJP gov-ernment which stopped farm-ers, used water cannons and even dug roads so that they could not march towards Delhi in November. "The govern-ment should know it cannot

break farmers by such tactics," he said. Hooda said farmers and their family members including women, children are sitting at the protest sites on Delhi Haryana borders and their sons are serving the nation at the border.

Lashing out at BJP leaders, senior Congress leaders alleged: "Some leaders say only Punjab farmers are protesting against agri-laws; Khalistani, Pakistani, Chinese agenda behind farmer's agitation...." He said farmers from several states including UttarAkhand, Madhya cis irom several states includ-ing Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are sitting on various border points of Delhi.

Delhi. He said that the state gov-nment has "lost" trust of He said that the state gov-ernment has "lost" trust of people alleging that prices of fertilizer and pesticiteds, diesel have increased multiple times but the Government has failed to increase the income of farm-ers. He alleged that this gov-ernment has failed in all fronts and unemployment rate is the

KADIAN ASKS IIP LEADER

KADIAN ASKS JJP LEADER
NAINA CHAUTALA TO
RISE LIKE "HANSI KI
RANI" FOR FARMERS'
CAUSE

Senior Congress leader
Raghuvir Singh Kadian said
this no-confidence motion will
make it clear who stands with
farmers and who is against
them. "Entry boards have been
put up outside villages banning
entry of BJP and JJP leaders
while Khap Panchayats have
given social boycott calls. Never
before in history has it happened before that the chieminister and deputy CMs helicopters are not being allowed
to land in villages," said Kadian.
"Farmers are stiting on borders,
but the government is not
inviting them for talks," he
alleged. Kadian said MLAs of
JJP, which had fought the 2019
assembly polls against the BJP
before forging alliance with
the saffron party, should look
into their inner conscience

and support the no-confidence motion. Pointing towards JJP MLA Naina Chautala, who is also mother of Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Kadian asked her to rise like "Jhansi ki Rani" for farmers' cause and support the no-con-fidence motion. "Chaudhary Devi Lal dedicated his entire life for farmers' cause. The JJP leaders should look in their inner conscience before voting, he said, adding that the Deputy CM should withdraw support from the government and stand civi should withdraw support from the government and stand

CONG LEADERS MIS-LEADING FARMERS, SAY BJP AND JJP LEADERS

with farmers

Education and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar hit out at the Opposition, saying they were misleading farmers and doing politics in their name.

politics in their name. He gave details of several steps which have been taken by the Government for the welfare of farmers. JJP senior leader

Ishwar Singh said the Government has taken several steps for welfare of farmers and brought many schemes for them. He said adequate arrangements are made by the Government to ensure smooth procurement of farmers' crops. Taking a dig at Congress leaders, he said they were portraying themselves as if they were the only sympathisers of farmers. Ishwar Singh's speech was frequently interrupted by Congress members who asked him to make his stand clear whether he stood in support of whether he stood in support of whether he stood in support of farmers or was against them. Independent MLA Nayan Pal Rawat, who is supporting the Government, hit out at the Congress, alleging "everyone knows that in the name of Change of Land Use the land of farmers was snatched. They Change of Land use the land of farmers was snatched. They looted farmers with both hands. It is Narendra Modi and Manohar Lal Khattar who took steps for peasants welfare and in this context these farm laws were brought."

Haryana CM defends farm laws

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said the State Government would continue to procure crops on Minimum Support Price (MSP) as earlier and the mandi system will continue in the State and would

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be further strengthened.
Replying before voting on
Replying before voting on
Ros-Confidence motion
moved by the Congress party
during the ongoing budget
session here, Khattar said that
the three new agricultural says
of the Central Government
are optional and not mandatory in any way. He said that section of the society, be it farmers, employees, youth, traders, labourers and have taken a number of welfare decisions for them. In first two years, I have visited all 90 assembly constituencies in the State and announced a number of developmental projects for TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.

State and announced a number of developmental projects for every region without any discrimination, he added.

Khattar said that at present, 10 crops are being procured by the present state government at MSP which is much more than the number of crops being procured by the neighboring States. He said that even the MLA of the ruling party in Punjab, Navjot Singh Sídhu has also appreciated the crop procurement system of Haryana Government. He said that last year, more than 50 percent crop payment was directly made into the bank accounts of the farmers. This year, it has been decided to make 100 percent payment to farmers directly into their bank accounts, he added.

Referring to the data given

Referring to the data given by a private institute CMI on by a private institute CMI on unemployment rate in Haryana , the Chief Minister apprised the House that CMI has reported 23.7 percent unemployment rate in Haryana for the year 2020 whereas, it was 7 percent as per the surey conducted by National Statistical Organization. He said that Leader of the Opposition, Bhupinder Singh Hooda has misled the House saying that tax rate on manure and fertil-

izer in the State has increased upto 28 percent. However, even today, tax on fertilizer in Haryana is only 5 percent. Referring to the pro-farmers initiatives taken by the present State Government, the Chief Minister said that 19 types of vegetables and fruits have been brought under the ambit of Bhavantar Bharpai Voiana. He said as against the Yojana. He said as against th Yojana. He said as against the target of setting up 1000 FPOs in the state, 486 FPOs have already been formed. Apart from this, 1.07 lakh farmers have been registered under the Pashudhan Credit Card Scheme stated on the lines of Kisan Credit Card Scheme, He said that a special campaign has been launched in four districts under the Micro Irrigation Scheme for water conservation. Under this, a provision of sub-Scheme for water conservation. Under this, a provision of subsidy up to 85 percent has been made for the purchase of Micro Irrigation equipment so that the precious water could be saved. Similarly, a provision has been made to give 75 to 85 percent subsidy on agricultural implements.

On farmers' agitation, Khattar said farmers are our brothers increase the of the

Khattar said farmers are our brothers irrespective of the State they belong to and no force could be used against them in any circumstances. He said that opposition has miserably failed to contribute in maintaining democratic values.

. He warned the Congress party that their political graph is being eroded. It is my moral responsibility to take care of 2.80 crore people of the state, he added.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME Punjab VB unearths big scam worth crores of rupees

Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Wednesday claimed to have unearthed a big scam worth crores of rupees under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arrogya Yojana – 'Ayshmaan Bharat' scheme, in which the State's pri-vate hospitals have obtained vate hospitals have obtained health insurance claims from insurance company, IFFCO-TOKIO, on the basis of "fake bills" for treatment of benefi-

illilli' for treatment of benefi-ciary patients possessing smart health cards.

Contrary to this, the IFFCO-TOKIO had rejected hundreds of insurance claims pertaining to Government hospitals causing a huge loss to the state exchequer. On the basis of inputs received from credible sources, it has come to light that several well-known private hospitals — based in Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, and Kapurthala districts — have prepared hefty fake bills on the names of smart card holders for prepared hefty fake bills on the names of smart card holders for their treatment under the treatment under the same of their treatment under the same of the same took insurance claims from IFFCO TOKIO," said the state DGP-cum-Chief Director Vigilance Bureau BK Uppal. He said that a regular vigilance enquiry have been registered by the Bureau to investigate this scam worth croes of rupees in the State.

Giving details of the pre-

rupees in the State. Giving details of the pre-liminary findings, Uppal said that Vigilance Range, Jalandhar, SSP Daljinder Singh Dhillon have unearthed this fraud in which several fake medical

Punjab Anti-Red Tape Bill, 2021; The Punjab Motor

Punjab Anti-Red Tape Bill, 2021; The Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; The Punjab Abadi Deh (Record of Rights) Bill, 2021; The Punjab Infrastructure (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021; among others were passed.

bills of private hospitals had been cleared by the insurance company, while the reim-bursement bills forwarded by the Government hospitals were rejected. "In this connection, major

"In this connection, major negligence has been seen at the end of concerned Deputy Medical Commissioners and doctors of the state hospitals or primary health centres," he said.

The major reason for rejecting the insurance claims of government hospitals by the company was to get extraordinary financial benefits of Rs 52,06,500. "As a result, the Punjab Government has incurred a total financial loss of the state exchequer during to the state exchequer during incurred a total financial loss of to the state exchequer during the last one year from these three aforesaid districts, "said Uppal. During investigations, it has came to light that a well known hospital of Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district had claimed Rs 4,43,98,450 for the treatment of about 1,282 patients. Out of these, 519 claims have been rejected.

"On the basis of these medical bills. Punjuáb State Health

ical bills. Puniab State Health ical bills, Punjab State Health Authority has passed claims of this Hospital to the tune of Rs 4,23,48,050. Then, IFFCO TOKIO insurance company reimbursed the claimed amount to the tune of Rs 1,86,59,150 to the said hospitally acid Unrel

1,86,59,150 to the said nospi-tal," said Uppal.

Revealing the modus operandi of the administration of the hospital under investi-gation (name withheld not to hamper investigations), the

Ayushman Bharat

Vigilance chief further informed that a patient named Paramjeet Kaur of Turna village in Jalandhar district was admitted to the hospital for operating gall bladder stone but due to her personal reasons, she did not undergo the operation.

"In this regard, the hospital prepared a lake medical bill of Rs 22,000 for this patient and took reimbursement claim

tal prepared a take medical bill of Rs 22,000 for this patient and took reimbursement claim form IFFCO-TOKIO under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, 'he said.

Citing another case, Uppal said one Sukhjinder Kaur of Sidhupur village was admitted to the same hospital for gall bladder operation. 'She presented her smart health card issued by the Punjab Government, but the Hospital director asked the patient that the treatment could not be done with one smart card. The hospital director then told the patient to either deposit Rs. 25,000 in cash or bring six-seven smart cards to avail the benefit of treatment. After this, Sukhjinder's family submitted three smart cards belonging to the family members to the hospital,' he said.

Uppal said that to cover up the "fraud", the Hospital shoot fake videos of Sukhjinder's family members lying on hospital beds and took their signatures on blank papers. The Hospital administrator also instructed them to reply on receiving a phone call by saying that they underwent an operation. But all three of them had no ailment," said Uppal adding that the hospital claimed falsely Rs 25,000 each of three persons for operating of the persons for operating of three persons for operating only Sukhjinder Kaur which

of three persons for operating only Sukhjinder Kaur which raised the suspicion that the Ayushman Bharat scheme was being rigged on a large scale by this hospital.

As per reliable input and figures, as many as 4,828 claims of 77 private hospitals were rejected during the last one year by the IFFCO-TOKIO health insurance company. The amount of rejected insurance claims of private hospitals is approximately Rs 5,59,96,407.

The VB has also learnt that 1,015 claims, of approximately Rs 52,06,500, of 35 Government hospitals were rejected during last one year by IFFCO-TOKIO.

Walkouts, brickbat, unanimity, passage of Bills mark last day

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the opposition— Shiromani
Akali Dal and Aam Aadmi
Party — harsh in its attack
against the Government. against the Government.

SAD staged two separate walkouts — one in protest against the mistreatment meted out to the protesting Anganwadi workers that too on the International Women Day, and another against the "lies" of Finance Minister Manpreet

protesting against the Punjab Infrastructure (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021, through which the Government would impose Rs 216 crore tax on the people of the State.

While the opposition members targeted the Congress Government for its failure to fulfill its pre-poll promises while making a new one in its last budget, the House members exhibited unanimity while passing a resolution to condemn the Enforcement Directorate raids against AAP's 'rebel' MLA from Bholath Sukhpal Singh Khaira.

At the same time, several

Singh Badal. At the same time, several significant Bills, including The

is shameful.

All this happened in Patiala, the home district of the Chief Minister, but he remained silent. In fact, the matter called for a high-level inquiry," he said.

As the Akali Dal members

As the Akali Dal members failed to get any answer from the treasury benches, they started protesting and raising slogans, after which they trooped in the well of the House, after which they staged the walkout. The legislators asked the SAD WALKS OUT IN

Government to listen to the grievances of Anganwadi workers and resolve them immediately or be ready to face the wrath of the people. "We express solidarity with our Anganwadi sisters and will support them in their fight against this arrogant and insensitive government," and insensitive government, said the Akali legislators.

SAD MLAS WALKOUTS TO PROTEST AGAINST MISTREATMENT METED OUT TO ANGANWADI WORK-

said the Akali legislators.

AAP MLAS STAGE WALKOUT OVER IMPOSITION
OF NEW TAX
Opposing the Punjab
Infrastructure (Development
and Regulation) Amendment
Bill, 2021, to impose a new tax
of Rs 216 crore on the people of
the state while claiming of presenting a "tax-free" budget,
AAP MLAs staged a walk-out
from the assembly. Raising the
issue, AAP MLA Aman Arora
said that during the presentation
of the budget on Monday, the
Government had said that no
new tax would be imposed on
the people, however, two days
later, the Government introduced a new bill to impose a
new tax.
"This Bill was introduced in TO ANGANWADI WORKERS

SAD legislators staged a walkout to protest against the mistreatment meted out to Anganwadi workers who had held a protest in front of Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal's residence in Bathinda on the International Women's Day.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, SAD MLA Bikram Singh Majithia said that the Anganwadi workers had staged protests in Patiala and Bathinda for their demands.

"During these protests, they were mistreated by the Congress workers. They even snatched their dupattas which is shameful.

All this happened in

tax. This Bill was introduced in the Assembly but the Government very cleverly with-drew it. Today, after all the work, this tax bill has been introduced.

this tax bill has been introduced.

This new tax would be levied on diesel, petrol and all immovable properties which would impose an additional burden of Rs 216 crore on the people.

People are already suffering from inflation. Petrol, diesel prices are skyrocketting and this tax will further increase fuel prices," he said.

PROTEST AGAINST FM'S

PROTIEST AGAINST FM'S "LIES"

SAD legislators staged another walkout protesting against the "lies" of the Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, and accusing the Congress Government of once again making false promises to the people like before. At the time when Manpreet was concluding the debate on the budget proposals he presented for 2021-22 on Monday, the SAD MLAs opposed him, and started sloganeering.

opposed him, and started slo-ganeering.

They accused that the Congress Government had deliberately made populist announcements to appease the people, which have nothing to do with reality, when it has just one year left in power. Shouting slogans, and after a brief protest, the MI.As walked out of the House.

Later, SAD MLA and

Later, SAD MLA and party's legislative wing leader Sharanjit Singh Dhillon said that the Congress spoke only lies.
"The promises it made to the people before coming to power have not been fulfilled till date, like debt waiver of farmer eliminating drug manages.

date, like debt waiver of farmers, eliminating drug menace, employment for youth, smart phones...none of these happened. Now again, the Government has made promises, which are totally wrong, he said.

The SAD legislators led by the legislative wing leader sharanjit Singh Dhillon and Bikram Singh Majithia said the FM had fudged figures to the tune of Rs 69,676 crore in the budget by inflating the State CSDP. They said that CSDP for 2019-20 was Rs 5.74 lakh crore

and it fell by 6.4 percent in 2020-21 due to COVID pandemic by the State's own estimates on page nine of Budget at a Glance document. "This should have made the GSDP 5.37 lakh crore in 2020-21 but the FM had fudged figures to show a GSDP of Rs 6.07 lakh crore for 2020-21".

11 BILLS PASSED

Punjab Vidhan Sabha passed eleven important bills in the budget session chaired by Speaker Rana KP Singh. Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra pre-

rvinister Brahm Mohindra pre-sented the Punjab Anti Red Tape Bill, 2021 to eliminate Red Tape Bill, 2021 to eliminate Red Tapism and promote effective administration of public affairs. A part of the government's reforms agenda for improving delivery of services to the public and ease of doing business to industry, the Bill contains provision to reduce the cost and burden of compliances on the citizens and businesses, through simplified, trust-based procedures that would expedite processes and make governance efficient.

The state Technical

processes and make gover-nance efficient.

The state Technical Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channi presented two bills including the Sardar Beant Singh State University Bill, 2021; and the Shaheed Bhagat Singh State University Bill, 2021— upgrading Shaheed Bhagat Singh State Technical Campus, Ferozepur; and Beant College of Engineering and Technology, Gurdaspur; as Shaheed Bhagat Singh State University, Ferozepur; and Sardar Beant Singh State University, Gurdaspur; respectively.