

Sikh congregation, Sarbat
Khalza, has exposed the
party's plan to derail the
progress of the state work
of destabilizing peace and
appointed Punjab Congress
chief Captain Amarinder
Singh to head the state
committee.



Perspective

Handwritten notes and signatures in blue ink, including a circled 'PS' and some illegible scribbles.

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 04 DECEMBER 2015

Parched fields, empty bellies

Bharat Dogra

Statesman

In recent years the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has repeatedly been in the news due to adverse weather conditions, crop failures and suicides of farmers. During the last year conditions have aggravated further due to failure of three crops in succession. This has led to very serious distress conditions including very high levels of hunger and malnutrition. Recent visits to some villages revealed several aspects of the high vulnerability of the people living here.

Ghasraut village is located



have provided much needed grain and fodder to some farmers to save them and their animals from hunger, but the need is so much that stocks need to be replenished from time to time. In part this is helped by a donation from Action Aid and partly by personal donations.

In addition to involving relatively better placed families Vidyadham Samiti has started an 'ek katora anaaj' or 'one bowl of grain' campaign within villages in which activists and villagers visit homes of better placed households to collect some grain from them and also to appeal to them to take care of

work is available under the MGNREGA (rural employment guarantee law) at present and payments were delayed for a long time earlier when the work was available for a short duration. So people have no option but to accept advance payments from labour contractors who send them to brick kilns. Many farmers and workers were recently crammed into a bus and left for Rajasthan. Several of them sent their wives and children, leaving behind old parents. Some were even seen clutching their poultry and goats in the bus.

Among villagers who