Himachal Tribung

NEET-UG ROW: STUDENT LEADERS HOLD PROTESTS

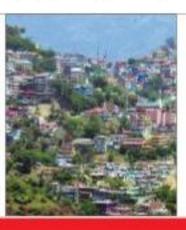
Several student bodies in Shimla staged protests against alleged irregularities in NEET-UG exams. P2>>

THURSDAY | 13 JUNE 2024 | HIMACHAL



SANS AUTHORISED SITE, ILLEGAL **DUMPING PLAGUES SOLAN**

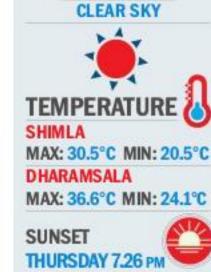
In the absence of an authorised site, construction waste is being dumped along link roads in Solan. P3>>



THE K3G KID IS READY FOR ISHQ VISHK REBOUND

For Jibraan Khan, the journey from K3G to Ishq Vishk Rebound is filled with 'just love, no pressure'. P4>>>





FORECAST

SUNRISE FRIDAY 5.17 AM

INBRIEF

HP OFFICE-BEARERS OF ABVP APPOINTED

Shimla: Dhandev Thakur has been appointed the Himachal Pradesh state organisational secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), while Gaurav Attri has been appointed the north regional organisational secretary of the ABVP. They were appointed during the ABVP's national executive council meeting in Surat from June 6 to 9. As many as 368 members of the ABVP from all over the country participated in the meeting. During the meeting, five proposals related to the education sector were passed. Discussions were held on various subjects, including the current national outlook, educational perspective and environment and expectations from the

HELPLINE

new government. TNS

POLICE

Report cyber crime - 1930 Gudiya helpline (women safety)- 1515

Hoshiar Singh (Forest crime) - 1090

HEALTH

expectant mothers

Medical emergency

Drug de-addiction, counselling and general health enquiry Free drop back ambulance service for

Shimla MC to enhance water storage capacity by 26 MLD

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

To address the problem of water shortage in the town, the Shimla Municipal Corporation will increase its water storage capacity by 26 million litres a day (MLD).

The civic body is revamping the 143-year-old tank, which has a storage capacity of 9 MLD, at Seog.

Besides, the Municipal Corporation is constructing a water storage tank, which has a capacity of 7 MLD, near Hotel Peter Hoff.

A new water tank with a capacity of 10 MLD has been constructed at Dhalli at a cost of Rs 7.50 crore.

The British-era water tank at Seog supplied water to the town when it served as the summer capital of Himachal Pradesh.

The construction of water storage tank at Hotel Peter Hoff is expected to be finished in July. Thereafter, water will be supplied from it to the town.

Shimla Mayor Surender Chauhan said efforts are being made to increase the water storage capacity in the town to end the water crisis. He said the Munici-



Mayor Surender Chauhan and MC officials during the inspection of a water tank in Shimla. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ADDITIONAL WATER EXPECTED TO BE SUPPLIED BY JULY

- The civic body is revamping the 143-year-old tank, which has a storage capacity of 9 MLD, at Seog. Besides, the MC is constructing a waterstorage tank, which has a capacity of 7 MLD, near Hotel Peter Hoff. A new water tank with a capacity of 10 MLD has been constructed at Dhalli at a cost of Rs 7.50 crore.
- The construction of water storage tank at Hotel Peter Hoff is expected to be finished in July. Thereafter, water will be supplied
- The British-era water tank at Seog supplied water to the town when it served as the summer capital of the state.

People in state lost over ₹4 cr to cybercriminals in one month: Police

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

People of the state have lost more than Rs 4 crore in the past one month to cybercriminals on the pretext of online trading and investing money in IPOs and blockchain, the police said.

According to the police, the fraudsters first get the contact number of victims from social media and promise them high returns on their investments. As a next step, the fraudsters add the victims to Telegram and WhatsApp groups and ask them to create a trading account/wallet. Thereafter, the victims are told to make investments of an initial amount of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.

At first, the victims are offered good returns to build trust and are encouraged to increase their investments. Later when the victims try to withdraw their money, they are unable to do so and come to know that they have been duped.

DIG (Cybercrime) Mohit Chawla, in a statement, said there has been a surge in cybercrime cases related to online trading across the country. "Innocent individuals are falling prey to fake

Victims duped on pretext of investing money in IPOs, blockchain

schemes and losing substantial sums of money to cybercriminals, who continually evolve their tactics for duping people," he added.

The DIG said over the past fewmonths, cybercrime cases registered in Himachal Pradesh have primarily involved online trading scams. Victims are lured into fraudulent schemes promising high returns, only to find themselves financially devastated, he said.

To prevent cyber fraud, the police have asked the people to refrain from sharing personal information or downloading unknown and suspicious apps and accessing such websites. The people have also been advised to be cautious while using online trading apps and conduct thorough verification to ensure authenticity and credibility of trading apps with recognised authorities such as BSE, NSE and SEBI.

People have further been advised to report cybercrime incidents to the police.

Head constable 'goes' missing after accusing senior of harassment



Head Constable Jasbir Saini.

Pankaj Sharma

NAHAN, JUNE 12

Head Constable Jasbir Saini, posted at the Kala Amb police station in Sirmaur district, has reportedly gone missing. The incident came to light after he released a video and announced his resignation. In his video, the head constable accused a senior police officer of harassment.

As Saini did not return home last night, his family started looking out for him. The situation took a dramatic turn when three videos featuring him surfaced.

In the videos, Saini alleged that he was being pressured to add an attempt-to-murder charge (Section 307) to a minor case. He claimed that his senior police officer had ordered him to report to the CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Water sources dry up, farmers await rain as Sirmaur feels heat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAHAN, JUNE 12

above 42°C.

The sweltering heat has disrupted daily life in Sirmaur district. In the past 24 hours, the temperatures in plain areas, including Kala Amb, Paonta Sahib, Ronhat and Dadahu, have soared

In the hilly regions like Shillai, Haripurdhar, Sangrah, Sarahan and Rajgarh, the mercury has exceeded 35°C, with Nahan reaching the 40°C mark.

The Meteorological Department has forecast dry weather for the next week, with a heatwave warning for plain

NARESH THAKUR

CHAMBA, JUNE 12

Five years ago, Shankar, who

belongs to the Gaddi tribe.

had decided to leave his

catering business in Punjab

and return home forever.

Shankar, who always missed

the pristine climate of his vil-

lage, took the major decision

of his life when he was earn-

Many doubted his decision

as Bhaloli, a quaint hamlet

nestled just three kilometres

from the bustling tourist hub

of Khajjiar, the mini-Switzer-

land of Himachal, lacked not

only basic amenities but also

ample means of livelihood,

since the landholdings were

small and agricultural pro-

duce insufficient to sustain.

ing a decent living.

areas. However, light rain is expected in the medium and high-altitude areas on June 14, with the clear weather predicted until June 20.

The heatwave has severely impacted drinking water sources in the district. Residents of various villages report that their traditional water sources have dried up. Rain-fed areas are also suffering, with farmers waiting for showers to plant maize, paddy and other crops.

Markets wear a deserted look in the day due to the scorching heat, though the sale of cold beverages and ice cream has surged. The region has witnessed an increase in

forest fires as more than 177 such fires have been reported since February, affecting both private and government properties. The district's Fire Department is making efforts to control these fires.

A government official has advised against using 'bidi' and cigarettes near forests to prevent the fires. The official has urged residents to protect government and private properties. According to the Jal Shakti Department, over 60 drinking water schemes have been affected in Sirmaur. As the heat continues, both water shortage and forest fire have emerged as critical concerns in the district.

6 arrested with drugs in Mandi

MANDI, JUNE 12

The police have arrested six persons after 19 grams of heroin was recovered from them. According to information, a team from the Mandi Sadar police station executed a search warrant at a hotel room on Tuesday evening and arrested the accused with the drugs.

The accused were identified as Sagarpuri, Anmol Thakur and Gaurav Dutt, all residents of Una district, and Manish, Vishal and Devasu,

all residents of Mandi district. The heroin was recovered during the search of the hotel room. Mandi ASP Sagar Chander said a case under the NDPS Act was registered at the Mandi Sadar police station against the accused. — TNS

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ADMISSIONS

Corporation

planned to start storing

water in these tanks in the

Chauhan said he, along

with officials, visited the

water tank near Hotel Peter

Hoff on Wednesday and

inspected the construction

work. The Mayor said he

also visited the water tank

in Dhalli on Monday.

monsoon season.

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Starting a new venture at Khajjiar would be equally difficult due to a tough competi-

Villagers of Bhaloli have converted some rooms of their houses

overcome challenges with help of homestay tourism

From adversity to prosperity:

A tale of 'The Mystic Village'



into homestays for tourists. PHOTO: MANI VERMA

Lacking basic amenities, residents of Bhaloli

tion, while his village is still inaccessible by roads and one has to negotiate one-and-akilometres descent. His nephew, Anoop Sharma, who worked for a politician in Punjab, has also a similar tale.

Today, Shankar, Anoop and their co-villagers have discovered a novel approach to overcome all challenges by adopting a successful model of community-based homestay tourism.

This innovation, which showcases the natural beauty and cultural richness of the village by offering visitors an authentic taste of Himalayan village life, was the brainchild of Manuj Sharma, co-founder of 'Not on Map', a Chambabased organisation promoting responsible tourism.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3







ABVP and (right) SFI activists stage protests against the alleged NEET-UG fraud outside the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Shimla on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: LAUT KUMAR

ABVP, SFI, NSUI on same page over NEET-UG 'scam'

Three main student parties stage protests | Conduct exam again, NSUI demands

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

The state committees of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) here today staged protests outside the premises of Deputy Commissioner's Office while the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) staged a at Himachal protest Pradesh University (HPU), Shimla, against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG exams conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), demanding an investigation into the matter.

During the protest, SFI state committee secretary Upendra said the NTA, in a statement, admitted to the irregularities in this year's results, claiming that there was also a provision for grace marking.

However, no mention of this grace marking scheme was made in the guidelines published by the NTA before the



NSUI activists protest the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, at HPU. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

consecutive roll numbers

exam. The Central Government had failed so far to take any action against the alleged scam, despite the continuous increase in unemployment across the country and the rising cases of paper leaks, which had been betraying lakhs of youngsters, he added.

"Moreover, complaints have surfaced regarding the allocation of equal marks to

from the same centre in NEET exams, resulting in candidates being forced to seek admission in private colleges, which is directly attributable to the policies

syllabus," he said. The SFI urged students from across the country to unite

of the NTA, such as the sig-

nificant reductions in the

against the centralisation of education through the NTA.

ABVP leader Akash Negi. during the protest of the student body, demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged scam and said the incompetence and corruption of the NTA had come to light through the NEET-UG (2024) examination and its results.

Negi also questioned the announcement of NEET-UG results on the day of the Lok Sabha election results and said that this raised suspicions over the NTA potentially attempting to hide some information.

The ABVP warned of launching a mass movement against the government if it failed to take action in pertinence to the matter.

NSUI, during its protest, demanded that the NEET exam be conducted again. A delegation of the NSUI submitted a memorandum of its demands to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of HPU.

NSUI president (Department of Laws, HPU) Navishek said many students had been affected due to the issue, while the government had remained silent. Since the NTA was facing allegations about discrepancies in the NEET-UG exam, the matter should be probed thoroughly, he added.

'Drug peddler' Cobra to be with cops 2 more months

RAJIV MAHAJAN

NURPUR, JUNE 12

The State Advisory Board headed by a serving justice of the High Court yesterday confirmed an additional two-month detention against alleged drug peddler Neeraj Kumar, alias Cobra, a resident of Golwan village in Fatehpur subdivision under the Nurpur police district.

The suspect is currently facing a 3-month detention after the issuance of a detention order against him by the state Home Secretary in March this year.

As per information, the Home Secretary-cum-Deten-Authority, Shimla, issued the detention order under Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (PIT-NDPS) Act, 1988.

Under the order, the police can put repeat offenders under a three-month detention, which can further be extended to an year.

Authorities can also seize properties amassed by offenders through drug trafficking.

Advisory board extends detention of repeat offender



Neeraj Kumar, alias Cobra. FILE

This is the second such case across the state.

Earlier, Nurpur district police had procured a sixmonth detention from the State Advisory Board for another repeat offender, identified as Puneet Mahajan, in a drug-related case. Nurpur SP Ashok Ratan told The Tribune that Cobra, the alleged peddler, had been arrested with 50.46 gm heroin (chitta) at Atahara on October 26 last year, and with 38.40 gm chitta

on April 19 last year. On March 23, 2021, he was arrested with 112.89 gm

charas (cannabis) by the police. Ratan said the proposal for obtaining a detention order against the suspect was submitted on November 18 last year to the Home Secretary, who had confirmed a threemonth detention order against the suspect.

After the case was presented before the advisory board, the board confirmed an additional two-month detention for the alleged repeat offender.

Information gathered by The Tribune revealed that all SPs across the state had been empowered to submit proposals of repeat offenders in drug trafficking cases to the three-member Advisory Committee headed by a justice of the state High Court.

Nurpur is the first police district to submit two proposals and obtain requisite detention orders against alleged repeat drug peddlers.

Programme on hematological disorders at IGMC

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

The Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) recently hosted a continuing medical education (CME) event focused on recent advancements in hematological disorders.

Dr Rajeev Sandal, clinical hemato-oncologist at the IGMC, emphasised the importance of updating medical professionals on the evolving treatment protocols for hematological disorders. The event highlighted the significant burden of hematological malignancies in the state. - TNS

Shimla pupils shine in NEET

More than 30 students of Vidyapeeth Academy scored over 600 marks, while over 50 pupils scored more than 560 marks in the NEET-UG examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Vedant Bekta of Vidyapeeth

Coaching Institute, Shimla, scored 686 marks in the examination. Krish, Giriraj, Ayush Sharma, Pratyush Raj, Akanksha Sharma, Adarsh Verma, Nishant Bohra, Sparsh Sharma. Aashna Gupta, Bhavya Sharma, Ankit Sharma, Ritul Raj Kesar Singh Bhardwaj, Mehta. Rudra Chauhan, Priyansh, Nandini Gupta, Manisha Thakur, Chandel, Prashan Thakur



Vedant Bekta

and Ayush Mukamia scored high in the examination.

The Shimla director of the institute, Ravindra Awasthi, and Dr Ramesh Sharma congratulated the students who had cleared the NEET exam, and their parents, wishing for a bright future for the students. - TNS

IPL's Mayank Dagar inaugurates cricket facilities at Shimla school

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

Cricketer Mayank Dagar, who has played in the Indian Premier League (IPL), here today visited Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, inaugurating cricket facilities at the school. He also coached students

and played with the boys, even hitting one of the balls right out of the cricket pitch, and the school!

The 27-year-old cricketerwas honoured by the entire school, with his address to the students being met with arousing applause. As an alumni of the school, Dagar talked him his days on campus, where he learnt cricket. "BCS holds a very special place in my heart



Mayank Dagar welcomed at BCS on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

and my journey started here when I joined the school in Class VII. I never thought I'd make it to professional cricket; however, I always tried to work hard, and played matches

here," said Dagar.

"I am really happy to see some of my old teachers here, and it is always a special feeling visit the school. I am looking forward to spending

some time with you all today," he added.

BCS director Simon Weale awarded him with a special 'Spartan Club' tie and badge. "A BCS person founded the IPL, and Mayank is the first Cottonian to play in the IPL.

We are very proud of him, and grateful to him for spending time in the school with our boys today," he said. Mayank plays for Himachal Pradesh in domestic cricket and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League. He is a right-handed batsman and slow left-arm orthodox bowler. He was part of India's squad for the 2016 Under-19 Cricket World Cup. — TNS

Minerva students after the announcement of the NEET-UG results.

SHIMLA, JUNE 12 As many as 43 students of Min-

Ghumarwin students excel in medical entrance exam

erva Educational and Coaching Institute, Ghumarwin, Bilaspur district scored more than 600 out of total 720 marks in the NEET-UG (2024) exam, while 78 students scored more than 550 marks. Institute topper Rahul Chandel scored 681 marks, followed by Sakshi,

who scored 680 marks. Founder and convener of Minerva Institutes Parvesh Chandel and Rakesh Chandel congratulated all the students as well as their parents and guardians, and thanked the teachers and staff members of the institute and all the stakeholders for their contribution to the students' success. — TNS

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Is a civic issue bothering you? Are you agitated over the lack of concern? Is there something heartening that you feel needs to be highlighted? Or a picture which in your opinion ought to be seen by many, and not just you?

The Tribune

invites its readers to have their say. Please email at: hpread ersfeedback@tribunemail.com CIGARETTE BUTTS, LIQUOR BOTTLES LITTERED IN PARK

ANY miscreants drink liquor and smoke in parks near the Forest Department's Wilding in Khalini during the night and throw liquor bottles and cigarettes there, making them extremely dirty. The garbage thrown at the parks has made taking a stroll a very unpleasant experience. The authorities concerned should keep an eye on the defaulters and take action against them. VINAY, SHIMLA

OVERCROWDED TAXIS AT SUMMER HILL

TAXIS plying on the roads of Shimla's Summer Hill are overcrowded most of the time. Due to this, the passengers have to face a lot of problems. It is very uncomfortable to travel in such taxis. The government should provide more taxi services on this route so that taxis are not occupied beyond capacity. ANKITA, SHIMLA



DRAINS UNCOVERED, COMMUTERS IN PERIL

RON plates installed to cover Ildrainage systems along a road in the Sanyard ward under the jurisdiction of the Mandi Municipal Corporation have been removed. These plates need to be reinstalled since the lack of these covers can cause a mishap. It may become the cause of accidents for pedestrians as well as motorists during the nights. The Public Works Department authorities should take cognisance of this issue and do the needful without any delay. RAJ KUMAR, MANDI



Nauniuniversity set to host event on crop pest control more than 30 ICAR institutes,

SOLAN, JUNE 12

The Department of Entomology, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's National Bureau Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR), Bengaluru, is organising the 33rd annual group meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological Control of Crop Pests

(AICRP-BC) on June 13-14.

The two-day workshop will

register the participation of 70

scientists and invitees from

state agricultural universities, state biological control laboratories and corporate houses. Scientists from various state

agricultural universities and ICAR institutes will present and discuss their work on the biodiversity of natural enemies of different insect pests, invasive pests and the management of crop pests using biocontrol agents. programme will be chaired by ICAR Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Dr Tilak Raj Sharma, while UHF Vice-Chancellor Rajeshwar Chandel will be the chief guest. —TNS

NEWS

Sans authorised site, illegal dumping of construction waste plagues Solan

SOLAN, JUNE 12

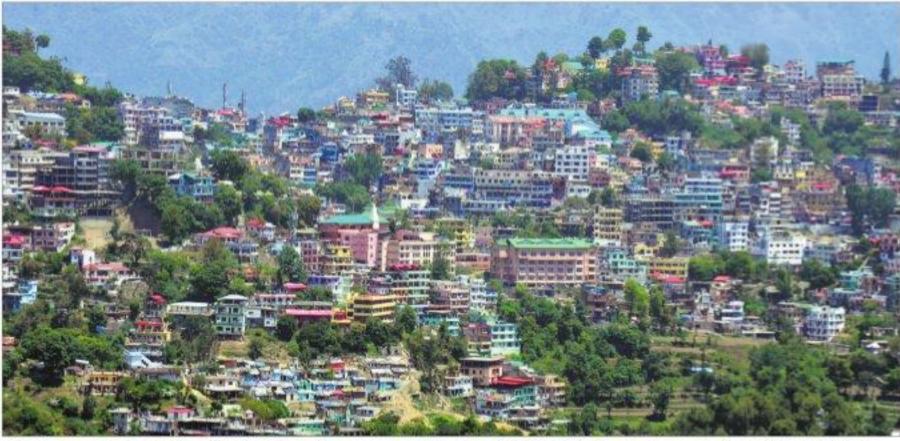
Due to the lack of an authorised site for dumping construction and demolition waste (CDW) in Solan city, those undertaking excavation for construction works have no place to dump the waste in.

Residents have to spend heavily on transporting this waste to sites outside the city limits. Not only does this adversely affect residents' pockets it also robs the municipal corporation of revenue. Mostly, this waste can be found dumped at illegal sites on various link roads as there is no authorised site within the civic body's limit.

Being among one of the fastest developing cities in the state, large-scale construction of commercial and housing colonies is underway in and around the city. The civic authority itself requires a dedicated site to dump CDW that is generated while undertaking developmental works such as construction of parking lots, sports complex-

Earlier, a site was approved for dumping CDW by the district administration at Kather Bypass on the Solan-Shimla National Highway. The municipal

es, commercial centres, etc.



With the town chock-a-block with buildings, a site was approved for dumping CDW at Kather Bypass on the Solan-Shimla highway.

corporation was looking after the site but they failed to maintain it as per the norms, following which it was taken back by the administration.

Taking note of the largescale dumping of CDW the State Pollution Control Board had also served a notice to the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee for violating various norms, though the committee later said the site did not belong to them.

Tonnes of waste was dumped at the site and the civic body could not stream-

MC TO GET KATHER SITE BACK

We are in the process of returning the CDW site at Kather to the Solan Municipal Corporation. The Forest Department has, however, staked claim to this site and they have been asked to produce revenue records in support of their claim within seven days.

Ajay Yadav, additional deputy commissioner

line the process. The site overlooks a nullah and there were concerns the mound of debris could erode with heavy rain and hinder the natural flow of water in the nullah.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ajay Yaday said. It was also approved as an

"We are in the process of returning the CDW site at Kather to the Solan Municipal Corporation, who are completing the due formalities."

"The Forest Department has, however, staked claim to this site and they have been asked to produce revenue records in support of their claim within seven days. If they can prove their ownership, the land will be transferred to them else it will be given to the civic body for creating a CDW site," added Yadav.

Mock drill to be held across state on June 14

Rains on the way, state reviews

steps to combat emergencies

management. It would provide a valuable platform for stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge enhance their preparedness for effective disaster management in the state.

Saxena said a mock drill would be conducted on June 14 under the guidance of consultants and observers of the NDMA, Army and ITBP. The exercise would help in drawing an effective disaster and IRS plan and target any shortcomings, he said.

NDMA Senior Consultant Major General (retd) Sud-Chief Secretary Prabodh hir Behl conducted the exercise through a videoconference in which senior officers of the NDRF, Army, ITBP and state government, besides all DCs and senior district-level officers participated. He gave a detailed presentation on conducting mock drills.

The

exercise brought together central ministries, disaster management institutes, early warning agencies and disaster management organisations. As key stakeholders in disaster management, the NDMA, SDMAs, and the Indian Army recognised the importance of learning from

multi-stakeholder

past experiences.

Revenue and Disaster Management Special Secretary DC Rana said hypothetical scenarios based on floods, landslides, GLOF etc. would be created for the mock drills that are to be held across the state, in which all districts will participate. The exercise will be conducted in coordination with the NDMA, Army and para military forces personnel.

Tribal district checks preparedness for disaster

Kinnaur: Dr Amit Kumar Sharma, Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority and Deputy Commissioner of Kinnaur, held a meeting today at the DC office to discuss disaster preparedness in light of the upcoming monsoon. He instructed officials of the ITBP, Army, Police, Home Guards and Health Departments to remain vigilant during the monsoon and directed all departments to prepare disaster plans to ensure rescue and relief operations can be conducted whenever needed, especially in case of cloudbursts and landslides in the tribal district.

The DC directed GREF, NHAI and PWD to deploy adequate machinery and labourers at sensitive locations to enable immediate relief operations in the event of a landslide. — OC

Over 1K children to get ₹4,000 under Vatsalya Scheme in Una

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNA, JUNE 12

Under the sponsorship programme of Mission Vatsalya Scheme, 1,210 eligible children up to the age of 18 in Una district will be provided a monthly financial assistance of Rs 4,000. Presiding over a district-level review meeting of District Child Welfare Committee, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahender Pal Gurjar said these children were presently, beneficiaries of Mother Teresa Asahay Matri Sambal Yojana, in which they were being given a stipend of Rs 500 per month by the government.

Gurjar said Mission Vatsalya Scheme covered those children whose mothers were either widowed, divorced or abandoned by their families or if the children were orphans living with their extended families. The benefit of the scheme would also be extended to children whose parents were suffering from a life-threatening or serious illness, rendering them incapacitated or financially and physically incapable of taking care of the children.

The ADC said that as per the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, children in need of care and protection, such as those victims of natural disaster, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, those homeless, HIV or AIDS affected, disabled, missing, runaways, beggars, tortured or exploited and in need of assistance and reha-

bilitation and those covered under the PM Cares for Children Scheme were also eligible to be beneficiaries of this scheme.

Gurjar said the purpose of

Mission Vatsalya was to ensure a healthy and happy childhood for every child. providing them opportunities to explore their potential and supporting their allround development, besides establishing a sensitive ecosystem for their integrated development. He urged people to bring it to the notice of District Child Protection Officer Kamaldeep Singh if any eligible child had not been covered under the scheme. Kamaldeep can be contacted on 8219604768 or at the office telephone number 01975-225850.

Trust celebrates 12 years of holistic wellness ical, mental and energy bod-

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The State Disaster Manage-

ment Authority, in collabora-

tion with the National Disas-

ter Management Authority

(NDMA), conducted a table-

top exercise on disaster

management here today.

The aim of the exercise was

to simulate emergency situ-

ations and exercise the roles

and responsibilities of key

disaster managers, while learning from domain

experts about the latest

trends in disaster relief. The

scope encompassed contem-

porary disaster issues in the

state, including flood, land-

slides and glacial lake out-

Saxena said the exercise was

held to prepare and check

standard operating proce-

dures (SOP) to meet various

exigencies during disaster.

He said the preparedness and

response in case of a disaster

needed to be properly coordi-

nated and the entire exercise

must be drilled to the lowest

level. 'This mock exercise

will help us in getting to

know of the efficacy of inci-

dent response plan (IRS) at

He further said the tabletop

exercise was a landmark

event for exchanging knowl-

edge, capacity-building and

strategic planning in disaster

the ground level," he said.

burst flood (GLOF).

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

OUR CORRESPONDENT

authorised CDW dumping

site for some years and the

waste generated during the

work

CHAMBA, JUNE 12

four-laning

dumped there.

The Yog Manay Vikas Trust (YMVT) has successfully completed 12 years of conducting transformative health, wellness and meditation camps at its antarnirman complex near Banikhet. The camps steer participants towards self-realisation by teaching them to consider their day-to-day chores as a form of therapy.

Chairperson Kiran Dodeja highlighted the unique octagonal structure of the antamirman complex, crowned as the state's largest dome. The complex features spiritual art galleries centred on the theme 'Who am I'. It also houses 'yog manav kaya arogya dham', offering panchkarma

to return home.

experience

tourists, the villagers also

offer them an opportunity to

cuisines, customs and cul-

ture of the village. While

Manuj, who along with his

family lives in Chamba,

turned his ancestral house

into a homestay, other vil-

lagers also spared rooms for

tourists as per the availability.

Five houses in the village

have emerged ideal homes-

tays near Khajjiar for peace-

Guests staying in Bhaloli's

homestays get a chance to

learn about the traditions

that define the village life,

fostering a deeper under-

standing and appreciation for

the local culture. They also

participate in daily activities

This homestay model not

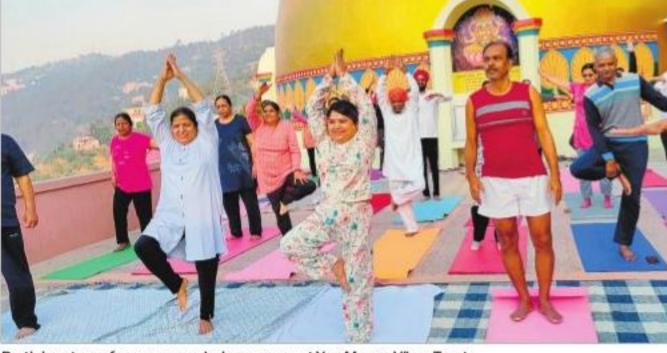
only enriches the visitors'

experience but also strength-

loving tourists.

of villagers.

traditional



Participants perform asanas during a camp at Yog Manav Vikas Trust.

therapies for holistic healing. Over the past 12 years, more than 150 camps have been organised, which have attracted over 5,000 participants

from across the country.

Dodeja emphasised the nation's significant expenditure on healthcare through government and private insti-

tutions. While doctors focus on the physical aspects of human anatomy and health, YMVT focuses on inner engineering, encompassing physies, said Dodeja, adding that through theoretical and practical sessions, the camps promoted a lifestyle not dependent on modern medicine. Currently, a group of 50

participants from Ludhiana, Bathinda. Vadodara. Dehradun, Bhopal, Khandwa and Delhi are attending a five-day camp from June 10. The retreat covers practices such as yoga, yog nidra, naadi shodhan, sudarshan kriya and different types of meditation, along with a sattvik based diet and ayurvedic lifestyle therapies, including panchkarma and acupressure. YMVT has also organised over 250 training programmes and camps to address healthrelated issues.

Exhibition on GI tag products inaugurated



Shimla on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SHIMLA, JUNE 12

tered and potential Geographical Indication (GI) products of the state was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena today. The event is being organised by the Patent Information Centre of the State Council for Science, Technology and would continue till June 16. It showcases nearly 15 registered and potential GI products, including Kullu shawl and Kullu logo, Kangra tea, Chamba rumal, Kinnauri shawl, Kangra painting, Himachali kala jeera, chulli oil, Chamba chappal, and Lahuli socks and gloves. Additionally, potential GI products identified for registration include Chamba metal craft, Kinnauri jewellery, Spiti

chharma, Bharmour rajma, An exhibition featuring regis- Pangi ki thangi, Chamba chukh, red rice, dasangru and Sirmauri loia, Karsog kulthi, Himachali dham, Himachali musical instruments, Kinnau-

ri apple, and sepu badi. Saxena, while emphasising the importance of GI tags, said these tags were given to products with a specific geographical origin, such as Chamba rumal and Kangra tea. He said the registration of GI products provided legal protection, enhancing the export potential of the product and promoted economic prosperity of producers in specific geographical areas. The exhibition offers an opportunity for both locals and tourists to learn about GI products and purchase them, he added. -TNS

Man held for co-worker's murder in Una

UNA, JUNE 12

The Una police on Wednesday claimed to have solved the murder case of a 40-year-old man whose body was found near the old Hoshiarpurroad at Lalsingi village here on Monday. The victim was identified as Harjinder Singh.

Addressing mediapersons, SP Rakesh Singh said a resident of Lalsingi had found a mutilated body near a temple. He said on the basis of the CCTV footage and statements given by eyewitnesses, the registration number of the suspect's motorcycle was was traced. The accused has been identified as Manieet (34) of Daulat Khan village in Hoshiarpur. According to the SP, the accused held the victim responsible for misplacing his cellphone. On June 9, the victim received Rs 15,000 from his employer. The SP said Manjeet was asking Harjinder for money to buy a new cellphone and since both of them were inebriated, their argument turned into a brawl. Manjeet hit Harjinder on his head with a rock and smashed his face to hide his identity. Thereafter, he left the scene. — TNS

From adversity to prosperity: A tale... Manuj had played an important role in convincing them Bhaloli, known by its more popular name 'The Mystic Village', with its address," he added. picturesque landscape and rich cultural heritage, procommunity homestay initiavides an ideal setting for tive is a testament to the tourists seeking more than resilience and innovative the usual attractions. spirit of its residents. Faced By opening their homes to with adversity, they have



This homestay model not only enriches the visitors' experience but also strengthens the community. PHOTOS: MANI VERMA

ly looked after by the local community. The earnings are equally distributed among the stakeholders," he said.

ens the community by promoting collaboration and About the lack of several mutual benefit, says Manuj. facilities such as a road, Anoop said, "A road means

more visitors, more pollution and garbage. The charm of village life is what we want to showcase to the visitors and it may be lost with the construction of a road."

"The number of visitors

'goes' missing ... coming to the village is enough for villagers to host them. Yes, water and erratic power supply is a bit of concern, which we want

government

The success of Bhaloli's

leveraged their natural sur-

roundings and cultural her-

itage to create a sustainable

tourism model that res-

onates with those seeking

genuine and meaningful

The village got a global

recognition when it was

awarded a Silver Medal in the

Indian Responsible Tourism

category by Outlook Trav-

Bhaloli's journey from

adversity to prosperity

through this initiative serves

as an exemplary model for

sustainable tourism devel-

opment. By blending tradi-

tion, innovation and collab-

oration, the village has set a

benchmark for responsible

and immersive tourism in

the Himalayan region. The

thriving tourism model not

only boosts the local econo-

my but also preserves the

cultural and natural her-

itage of the village, ensur-

ing its legacy for future

generations.

travel experiences.

eller earlier this year.

office within half an hour,

forcing him to drive to Nahan at a high speed. Jasbir Saini, a resident of Nawada in Paonta Sahib, has been posted at the Kala Amb police station for approximately one and a half years.

Head constable

According to reports, Saini left his phone and the car in Kala Amb before allegedly disappearing. In the videos, Saini questioned how Section 307 could be added to a less severe case and accused his superiors of coercing him to press the charge. He said the victims were not cooperating with the police. Sources said thorough search is on to trace him.

SP Raman Kumar Meena said the allegations levelled by Head Constable Jasvir are irresponsible and false. He said the district police deny the allegations. The SP said some youths travelling in a vehicle with a Punjab number plate had beaten up some locals, after which a case was registered at the Kala Amb police station.

The complainant was unhappy with the investigation and behaviour of Jasvir, the SP added. Thereafter, the complainant approached senior police officers and when the case file was checked, many irregularities were found in it, the SP said. Thereafter, Jasvir was directed to carry out a fair investigation.

"The initiative is exclusive-

DILIT'S 'GUEST' APPEARANCE



Diljit Dosanjh is setto reach another milestone in his music career. The actorsinger, known for promoting Punjabi music worldwide, will be a guest on Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight

Show. Diljit on Wednesday, took to Instagram account and read, "Panjabi Aagye Oyee. This Week's Guest."





'It gives butterflies in my stomach'

Kiran Bedi's journey as first woman IPS officer to be captured in biopic

A biopic on Kiran Bedi, the first woman IPS officer of India, has been announced. It is titled Bedi: The Name You Know. The Story You Don't.

Dream Slate Pictures made the announcement about the biopic in Delhi. This film chronicles the life of Kiran Bedi, India's first and indomitable woman IPS officer, written and directed by Kushaal Chawla. In an interview, Kiran Bedi expressed her excitement about her upcoming biopic. "It gives butterflies in my stomach."

Bedi: The Name You Know. The Story You Don't promises to delve deeper into Bedi's life, "revealing the untold incidents, personal and professional challenges and unwavering determination that shaped her extraordinary career in policing," according to a statement from Dream Slate Pictures.

The writer-director for the film, Kushaal Chawla also expressed that how his personality has been inspired and shaped seeing the work of Kiran Bedi.

"It is an honour and privi-

lege to write and direct a film about Dr Kiran Bedi. She has been a tremendous inspiration to me, and having her trust to direct this film is truly a blessing. In this feature film, I explore heart-warming transformations, unseen triumphs, and the extraordinary personal and professional journey of Dr Bedi as she navigated her path as the first woman in the male-dominated world of policing. I believe the audience will truly get to know the woman behind the khaki, and be inspired by her unwavering dedication," he added. — ANI



Richie Mehta, Alphonse Roy, others to take masterclasses at 18th MIFF

Class

The 18th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) will feature interesting panel discussions with filmmaker Richie Mehta, Nemil Shah, Alphonse Roy and Georges Schwizgebel.

The biennial film festival organised by the NFDC, which focuses on short films, documentaries and animation films, will also see several interesting masterclasses and panel discussions addressing a wide range of conversations around diverse filmmaking techniques and formats. MIFF is all set to take place from June 15 to 21 at the



National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai.

Among those scheduled at the 18th MIFF, are Nemil Shah, a 28-year-old filmmaker who won a Nation Award for his short film Dal Bhat. He will conduct a masterclass with Alphonse Roy, the



wildlife cinematographer celebrated for his exceptional work on documentaries such as Treasure Seekers: Tibet's Hidden Kingdom and Man Eaters of India among others.

Award-winning animation film director Georges Schwizgebel will take masterclasses



on animation and documentary filmmaking. The festival will also see Richie Mehta in conversation with veteran filmmaker Ketan Mehta, Emmy nominated animation filmmaker Vaibhav Kumaresh and actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani. — ANI

The K3G kid is ready for Ishq play Shah Rukh Khan and

For Jibraan Khan, the journey from K3Gto Ishq Vishk Rebound is filled with just love, no pressure'

Jibraan Khan, the actor who captured hearts as the endearing son of Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, looks back at the "privilege" bestowed upon him at a tender age.

Portraying the child of two Bollywood legends is indeed a rare opportunity, one that Jibraan cherishes with humility and gratitude. He said, "It's a privilege and an honour to Kajol's child in a movie at such a young age, and I feel that the amount of love, which has transcended over the years, is unconditional. Even today, people give me the same love and I just hope it continues with Ishq Vishk Rebound, and god willing, whatever happens next in life. So, there is no pressure, just too much love, and nothing else, just too much love"

added Jibraan. Directed by Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari, Ishq Vishk Rebound features an ensemble cast including Rohit Saraf, Pashmina Roshan, Naila Grrewal, Kusha Kapila, and Supriya Pilgaonkar.

Produced by Ramesh Taurani and Jaya Taurani Ishq Vishk Rebound is set to release on June 21. — IANS

