

## TEACHERS ATTEND DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Focus on developing school disaster management plans and promoting safe educational practices. P2»



## BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF Dr YS PARMAR CELEBRATED

Around 150 participants take part in a 2-km walk to honour the first Chief Minister of the state. P3»



## ZUBIN'S BUS NO 7 MAKES IT TO ONLINE EDITION OF IFFM

Chandigarh-based theatre person says he wants to tell simple stories & engage with people emotionally. P4»



MONDAY | 5 AUGUST 2024 | HIMACHAL

## IN BRIEF

### FUGITIVE FROM GUJARAT DETAINED

**Shimla:** A fugitive from Gujarat has been arrested by the Himachal Police at Fagu, 19 km from here. The police had, on August 3, received information that one Avinash, alias Golu, a resident of Gorakhpur (UP), was wanted in a case registered in Valsad police station under Sections 363, 366 and 376 of IPC and Sections 4 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and was suspected to be in Fagu. The DSP Siddharth Sharma said the accused was handed over to a team of the Gujarat Police. TNS

## HELPLINE

### POLICE

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Gudiji helpline (women safety)- 1515

Hoshiar Singh (Forest crime) - 1090

### HEALTH

Medical emergency 108

Drug de-addiction, counselling and general health enquiry 104

Free drop back ambulance service for expectant mothers 102

# Nothing new to offer, govt-run colleges see dip in admissions

Students prefer market-oriented courses to traditional ones

RAGHAV GULERIA

**DHARAMSALA, AUGUST 4**

If the poor student intake in the undergraduate courses at various government-run colleges in Kangra district is any indication, the Department of Education has to take drastic steps to ensure better enrolment.

It seems today's youth is bored with traditional courses on the offer in the government-run colleges, say insiders. According to Ravinder Singh Gill, principal of Government Degree College, Takipur, today's youths are market-oriented and looking for multiple opportunities, which have emerged recently. Information Technology, legal studies, computers, management studies are most-sought after courses and they seem to be least interested in taking up traditional courses. Sanjay, who has completed his Class XII, is looking for a



Government Degree College at Matour in Kangra is among the institutions witnessing a low student intake. TRIBUNE PHOTO

professional course that can make him employable. Talking to *The Tribune*, he said in the age of joint degrees who will take admission in a government college, which had failed to upgrade themselves in accordance with current market needs and trends. It is the same story in all the

government-run colleges in the district. The colleges established in recent years that have only traditional UG courses to offer are the worst-sufferers due to a sharp decline in fresh admissions this year. "Government colleges at Dehra, Takipur, Lunj, Haripur

and Matur are waiting for a miracle to happen to see a surge in admissions. They do not have anything new to offer to the youths. In these colleges, fresh admissions have drastically come down. With just 20 to 30 new admissions and an overall strength as low as 100 to 200, for how long a college can survive is a point worth pondering upon. The students on the contrary are giving preference to courses, which can make them employable," said an employee in a college.

Though the new colleges have come up in smaller townships recently to cater to rural areas, with considerable improvement in means of transport the youths prefer urbanised centres like Dharamsala, say insiders.

Old colleges in Dharamsala and Dhaliara, too, are relying on self-financing courses to boost their numbers.

SEE ALSO PAGE 2



More facilities like the High Altitude Training Centre at Shilaroo are needed. TRIBUNE FILE

# Laggard in sports: Mere cash awards can't produce champs

## HIMACHAL CALLING

SUBHASH RAJTA

**SHIMLA, AUGUST 4**

A while back, the state government substantially enhanced cash awards for the state's sportspersons winning medals in top international events like the Olympics, Asian Games and world championships etc.

An athlete bringing home a gold medal from the Olympics would get Rs 5 crore as cash award, same as in Haryana. Similarly, the cash awards in other top international competitions are now comparable to Haryana, the powerhouse of Indian sports.

The cash-strapped government probably hiked the cash awards knowing that it won't put any pressure on the exchequer at least in the near future. It surely won't in the ongoing Olympics — no sportsperson from the state has even qualified for the planet's biggest sporting extravaganza. The situation is unlikely to be any different at other major top sporting events, for expecting a medal from the state's sportspersons in top international events is akin to climbing Mount Everest without oxygen.

Yes, cash awards, along with jobs, are major incentives that encourage sportspersons to excel in the international arena. These incentives put Haryana on the path of becoming a sports giant it has become today around two decades back. But the prom-

### STATE HAS FEW COACHES

■ Sportspersons need experienced coaches and good infrastructure from a young age to even dream of standing on a podium in the Olympics. And that's precisely where the state is lacking at the moment. There are just 100-odd sanctioned posts for the coaches, and half of these have been lying vacant for quite some time now

use of big cash awards alone after winning in top international events isn't enough to produce champions — sportspersons need experienced coaches and good infrastructure from a young age to even dream of standing on a podium in the Olympics.

And that's precisely where the state is lacking at the moment. There are just 100-odd sanctioned posts for the coaches, and half of these have been lying vacant for quite some time now. Such is the shortage in the state that junior coaches are officiating as District Sports Officers in most districts. Who would spot and groom a talented youngster when there's such a huge shortage of coaches?

Despite the shortage, a few big sports achievers from the state, who have been given jobs on the basis of their performance in the Olympics and Asian Games, are not being utilised for coaching. They are doing the same work as any other employee in their respective departments, which largely defeats the purpose of inducting them into government jobs.

The situation is more or less the same when it comes to sporting infrastructure. There aren't enough coaching centres and sports hostels to engage enough youth and create a pool of talent. In

sports, quality flows from quantity. For example, there's just one 10m shooting range in the state even though the number of nationally-qualified shooters in the state has gone beyond 200. And if efforts are made to raise the infrastructure, it is hampered by sheer incompetence and bad planning.

Take the example of the proposed multi-purpose stadium at Katanani near Shimla. The original plan was to build a multi-purpose stadium at a cost of over Rs 50 crore. Midway, someone realised that there wasn't enough space for the multi-purpose stadium, and it was decided to have a shooting range instead. At the moment, no one knows what will eventually come out of this half-baked idea.

Further, the sports associations have not been getting annual government grants for the last few years to conduct their district and state level events. Majority of the schools, too, leave a lot to be desired when it comes to promoting sports.

A few days ago, the Education Department had to issue an order for all schools to have physical training and sports activities for 15 minutes every day. The order says a lot about how little importance most schools accord to physical fitness and sports activities.

# No connectivity, tourists stuck in Malana

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KULLU, AUGUST 4**

The district administration today sent a team to Malana village through the Chandekhani trek route to bring back 12 tourists staying there after roads and bridges connecting the village were washed away due to a cloudburst on July 31 night. A foreigner is also residing in the area and is willing to stay there.

Kullu SDM Vikas Shukla said 12 persons from Kerala, Delhi, Punjab and Uttarakhand were not able to return as the connectivity was disrupted after the cloudburst.

He added that adequate stock of ration was available for villagers and mobile connectivity was through. He added that the work to restore of electricity supply and road connectivity was under way.

A video was doing rounds on social media in which a girl claiming herself to be Pallavi from Noida stated



Kullu DC Torul S Raveesh inspects rescue and relief measures at Bagipul in Nirmand. TRIBUNE PHOTO

that 12 tourists were stranded in Malana village.

Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sunder Singh Thakur said the Chief Minister had given approval to build three ropeways at Malana, Baladhi and Chowki villages. "The

road from Bhuntar to Manikaran is completely safe and now once again the movement of big vehicles has started from here," he added.

Kullu DC Torul S Raveesh yesterday met flood-affected families at Bagipul village of

the Nirmand block and took stock of the relief work.

She asked the department heads to work in coordination so that the affected people can get relief and also issued guidelines for installation of a temporary bridge at Bagipul.

# Underpass to come up near lift in Shimla

**SHIMLA, AUGUST 4**

To ease the traffic congestion on Circular Road, a 50-m underpass will be built near the lift parking complex.

Once it is completed, vehicles coming towards the lift from the old bus stand will be able to directly enter the parking complex. This will reduce traffic congestion on the road.

Recently, the civic body had received nod from the state government for the construction of the underpass. The MC is preparing a budget estimate for the work.

Shimla Mayor Surender Chauhan said they were aiming to start the work this year. "The construction work will be undertaken by the Public Works Department," he said.

A pedestrian path will also be constructed for the convenience of the people. After its construction, those who want to go to Mall Road will no longer have to cross Circular Road. — TNS

# Bhardwaj for hike in honorarium to SPOs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NURPUR, AUGUST 4**

Lok Sabha MP from Kangra Rajiv Bhardwaj today said he had appealed to Home Minister Amit Shah to enhance monthly honorarium to 520 special police officers (SPOs) posted in Chamba district to Rs 20,000.

The SPOs had been recruited by the government after a terror attack at Satruandi in Chamba district in August 1998 in which 46 residents were killed and many kidnapped.

Stating that he had taken up the issue in Parliament, Bhardwaj said initially, the SPOs were given monthly honorarium of Rs 1,500, which was enhanced to Rs 3,000 in 2006 and now they were getting Rs 6,000. Meanwhile, the SPOs in Jammu and Kashmir were being given a monthly honorarium of

Raise it to to ₹20,000, says Kangra MP

Rs 18,000, Bhardwaj said, adding that the Centre should enhance honorarium to SPOs in Chamba to Rs 20,000 per month and end this discrimination.

Bhardwaj said he had also demanded opening of a Sainik School in the Nurpur area, besides a Central school in the Churah area of Chamba district. The MP said a National Institute of Technology should also come up in Chamba district, as at present this premier institute was only in Hamirpur district.

He said Chamba was a backward district and had been declared as an 'Aspirational District' in 2018, but it still needed a lot of infrastructural facilities.

# Two health centres get quality certification

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NURPUR, AUGUST 4**

Two Health-cum Wellness Centres in the Nurpur health block have been awarded the National Quality Certification by the Union Health and Family Welfare Department under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) programme.

A centre at Thora Bhaloon had been awarded the certificate for three years with effect from July 31 after assessing seven mandatory service packages on July 11. Its assessment score was 80.08 per cent. The Health Department sources reveal that the NQAS programme has been developed keeping in mind the specific requirements for public health facilities as well as the best global practices.

The Health-cum-Wellness Centre, Kopra, was the second rural health institution, which had been awarded the quality certificate after its assessment



The Health-cum-Wellness Centre at Thoda Bhaloon that has been awarded the National Quality Certificate. TRIBUNE PHOTO

by the external empanelled assessors. The centre had scored 74.19 per cent.

Nurpur Block Medical Officer Dr Dilwar Singh said the Kopra centre had been granted the quality certification with conditionality under the NQAS programme for a period of one year. "During this period the health facilities are expected to address the weaknesses found during the national certification assessment," he added.

The programme was launched by the Health Ministry in 2013 with an aim to improve the quality of care in public health facilities across the country. The quality standards had been set for the rural as well as urban health care institutions under the programme.

The prime objective of the NQAS was to recognise good performing health facilities as well as improving the credibility of health institutions in the community.



Municipal Corporation employees load confiscated goods onto a truck in Shimla on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Unauthorised street vendors removed

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SHIMLA, AUGUST 4**

The Shimla Municipal Corporation today removed 12 unauthorised street vendors and hawkers from various markets of the state capital.

During an inspection, a nine-member team, led by Tehbazari Inspector Jyoti Prakash, found six unauthorised street vendors in Lower Bazaar, two each in

Ram Bazaar, Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) road and the area near the lift. The team also confiscated goods from the vendors.

Jyoti Prakash said a strict action was being taken against such street vendors in the town. He said most of the street vendors were from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and New Delhi.

## Lack of quality education at Ronhat college forces students to migrate

Pupil intake declines from 175 in 2021 to 85 | 90% students girls

PANKAJ SHARMA

**NAHAN, AUGUST 4**  
In the heart of the Shillai Assembly constituency, represented by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan, a troubling situation is unfolding, highlighting the deep-rooted issues plaguing the education sector in rural India. Students from this region, especially those attending the Ronhat Government College, are increasingly compelled to migrate to other cities in search of better educational opportunities. The college has been grappling with severe teaching staff shortage, inadequate infrastructure and the lack of quality education.

In 2021, the college had over 175 students enrolled, with girls making up 90 per cent of this number.

For these students, the college was a lifeline, offering a feasible path to fulfilling their educational aspirations.

However, this lifeline is rapidly fraying. Today, the number of students enrolled has dwindled to just 85, with girls still comprising about 90 per cent of the students.

Sources said many of those who remain are planning to shift to other institutions, citing the lack of staff and inadequate facilities as major obstacles to receiving quality education. They express frustration at being forced to consider migrating to cities such as Shimla, Solan, and Nahan, not out of choice, but out of necessity. Sharing her plight, Prerna Prashar, a student of the college, said, "We wanted to study near our homes, but there is no proper staff, and the education here is not up to the mark. We have no professors for key subjects such as eco-



### ONCE A BEACON OF HOPE

- The Ronhat college, once a beacon of hope for students of the area, particularly girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, has seen a dramatic decline in its student intake
- Most of the students are young girls from rural areas who, due to financial constraints, cannot afford to pursue higher education in other cities



Government College in Ronhat, which runs from six rented rooms.

### NO PROFESSORS FOR KEY SUBJECTS

"We wanted to study near our homes, but there is no proper staff, and the education here is not up to the mark. We have no professors for key subjects such as economics, history and commerce, and are forced to study on our own." — Prerna Prashar, A STUDENT

nomics, history and commerce, and are forced to study on our own."

Many of her peers had already shifted to other colleges and were receiving better education there, she added.

The situation at the Ronhat college is dire. The institution operates with less than half the required staff, and without a permanent building.

Despite being operational since 2017, the college rents a private building at a monthly cost of Rs 27,000, operating from just six rooms.

Out of these, three rooms

serve as classrooms, while the principal's office, staff room and the college office take up one room each.

The staffing situation is equally bleak. The principal's position has remained vacant for a considerable period, and there are no professors for many key subjects.

Additionally, positions for a superintendent, senior assistant and office clerk lie vacant. Currently, only assistant professors for English, Hindi, political science and commerce are available to teach, leaving significant gaps in the

educational offerings.

Although the construction of a permanent college building has begun, and is being funded by the government at an estimated cost of Rs 4.6 crore, the project is progressing at a snail's pace.

The slow progress offers little hope for students in the immediate future.

This situation is in stark contrast to the lofty promises made by the state government, which frequently touts its commitment to providing quality education.

However, the ground reality

in rural areas such as Ronhat seemingly reveals a different picture, where these promises remain unfulfilled, and students are left to fend for themselves. For impoverished and marginalised communities in these remote areas, the right to quality education is not just a matter of policy, it is a crucial pathway to a better life.

As the government continues to pay lip service to educational reforms, it is essential that it takes concrete steps to address the glaring deficiencies in institutions like the Ronhat college.

## 35 teachers participate in 4-day disaster mgmt event

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAHAN, AUGUST 4

Recognising the vulnerability of Sirmaur district to various natural disasters and the heightened risk faced by local schools, a four-day workshop on disaster management began today at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) auditorium in Nahan.

The residential training programme was officially launched by Acting District Project Officer (Samagra Shiksha) Himanshu Bhardwaj.

District Coordinator Omkar Sharma, who is also a lecturer at DIET, Nahan, provided details about the workshop, noting that it would run from today to August 7.

The event witnessed the participation of 35 Junior Basic Teachers (JBTs) representing winter-session schools across the district. Sharma elaborated the comprehensive agenda of the workshop, including in-depth lectures on various types of disasters, their impacts, causes and specifics such as earthquakes, tectonic plates, dis-

Aims to ensure safety of schoolchildren

aster risk reduction and the disaster profile of the state.

Other critical topics to be covered include the psychology of disaster-related science, disaster management strategies, climate change, disaster cycle, administrative role in disaster response and the responsibilities of participants in ensuring the safety of schools.

Additionally, the workshop will focus on developing school disaster management plans and promoting safe educational practices.

Participants will also engage in a thorough analysis of past disasters that have affected the district, studying their causes, impacts and lessons learned under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

In addition to the theoretical sessions, the workshop will feature practical demonstrations. Experts from the Chief Medical Officer's office in Nahan will discuss emergency medical treatments during disasters, including CPR techniques and treat-

ment for illnesses such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya and scrub typhus. Furthermore, hands-on training sessions will be conducted by the Home Guard office, focusing on search and rescue operations, fire safety and other critical emergency response skills.

Bhardwaj said, "The main objective of the workshop is to ensure the safety of schools and protection of children from various types of disasters. It is crucial that we prepare our educators to respond effectively to any potential threats."

The workshop also saw the presence of disaster management expert Rajan Kumar Sharma from the District Disaster Management Authority, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Nahan, who talked in detail about disaster management.

The initiative reflects a proactive approach to disaster preparedness in the region, aiming to equip local educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to safeguard students and schools against natural calamities.



The workshop underway at the District Institute of Education and Training auditorium in Nahan.

## Pharmacy fails to maintain sales record, sealed by CID

CHAMBA, AUGUST 4

The Health Department, in collaboration with the state CID, has sealed pharmacy in Saho panchayat of Chamba district for failing to maintain proper records of sales. The authorities also confiscated the pharmacy owner's car, after eight bottles of codeine cough syrup were seized in the vehicle. The drug inspector seized the bottles and collected samples, which have been sent to the department's laboratory for a quality check. It was revealed that the pharmacy owner was selling large quantities of narcotic and psychotropic drugs without maintaining accurate purchase and sales records, which is mandatory as per the rules.

The authorities have also instructed the drug inspector to ensure that the complete sales records of the drugs were provided to the Health Department. The CID and the Health Department are conducting a

### CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

- The CID and the Health Department are conducting a special campaign against drug abuse in Chamba
- As part of this campaign, pharmacies in the district are being inspected to ensure that drugs, prone to abuse, are not sold without a doctor's prescription

special campaign against drug abuse in the district. As part of this campaign, pharmacies in the district are being inspected to ensure that drugs, prone to abuse, are not sold without a doctor's prescription.

State Drug Controller Manish Kapoor said the pharmacy in Saho was sealed due to improper record-keeping of narcotic and psychotropic drugs. The department was taking this matter seriously and investigating it further as part of the campaign to curb the growing misuse of drugs, he added. — OC

## IIT-Mandi welcomes 500 undergraduate students

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, kicked off its orientation for the undergraduate classes of 2024 yesterday.

Over 500 students from across India, with more than 25 per cent being female, joined the institution.

Twenty-one preparatory students also participated in the event. Addressing the new students, IIT-Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera said, "By joining the IIT-Mandi community, you are now part of our nation's hope for achieving greatness.

Our collective efforts will shape the destiny of this nation through hard work and honesty. Whether in technology, art, engineering or sports, achieving excellence requires a unified approach."

Behera highlighted the institute's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Centre for Quantum Science and Technologies, Centre for Design and Fabrication of Electronic Devices and the Advanced Materials Research Centre.

He emphasised the institute's commitment to providing practical experience alongside theoretical knowledge through a learning-by-



Director Laxmidhar Behera addresses newcomers at IIT-Mandi. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

doing curriculum.

The orientation included an introduction to IIT-Mandi's induction programme, which

aims to ease the transition from school to college, enhance students' skills and underscore the societal

impact of engineering. Dean of Academics Anirudha Chakraborty talked about the unique aspects of

the curriculum, stating that it fostered creativity and critical thinking.

Dean of Students Tushar Jain spoke about the holistic growth opportunities at IIT-Mandi. The one-week induction programme includes a variety of activities aimed at facilitating a smooth transition for the new students.

These activities include yoga, a trek to Kandi Peak, a nature walk on Arnehar Road and a freshers' athletics meet.

The programme will also cover important topics such as anti-ragging, drug abuse prevention, cybersecurity, gender sensitisation and clinical hypnotherapy.

## Nat'l talent hunt exam for pupils of classes VII-XII

SHIMLA, AUGUST 4

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) is set to conduct the Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam-2024 (ANTHE-2024). The offline exams are scheduled to be held from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on October 20 and 27 at the more than 300 Aakash Institutes across the country. Applicants can appear for the online ANTHE exam anytime from October 19 to 27.

The exam will offer students of class VII-XII a chance to earn up to 100 per cent scholarship, and cash awards.

AESL CEO and MD Deepak Mehrotra said this year, the perks included a 5-day all-expenses-paid trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA, for five outstanding students. — 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: [tpreadersfeedback@tribunemail.com](mailto:tpreadersfeedback@tribunemail.com)

### IRREGULAR POTABLE WATER SUPPLY IN MAJIATH

**D**RINKING water is being supplied after a gap of four days in the Majiath ward of Shimla. Due to this, people here have been facing a lot of inconvenience. Residents have to depend on handpumps and springwater sources to meet their daily water demands. The MC should ensure proper water supply here on priority in the interest of the area residents. **RAMESH, SHIMLA**

### ROADSIDE PARKING CAUSING TRAFFIC SNARLS IN SHIMLA

**V**EHICLES are parked on the roadside in various parts of Shimla, leading to frequent traffic jams, especially during office hours. The police should take action against those who park vehicles on the sides of the roads, especially stretches near markets, on priority. **MUSKAN, SHIMLA**

### STRAY DOGS HAUNT CHHOTA SHIMLA

**P**ACKS of stray dogs can be seen on the Chhota Shimla road near Marina Hotel. A lot of people use this road to reach Mall Road, and return late in the evening. The presence of so many dogs on this stretch of the road has left pedestrians worried for their safety. The authorities concerned should take note of this issue and take action as soon as possible. **RAGHAV, SHIMLA**

## Annual inspection at Subathu Kendriya Vidyalaya

SHIMLA, AUGUST 4

The PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya 14 GTC, Subathu, recently underwent an annual inspection conducted by a panel of educators under the guidance of Gurugram Assistant Commissioner Bhupesh Bhatt. Principal Asha Chaudhary, the NCC and the Scout and Guide team of the school welcomed the panel.

The inspection team was impressed with the academic achievements of the students. The school's curriculum was found to be robust, fostering critical thinking and creativity. The inspection concluded on a positive note, with the panel expressing confidence in the school's continued success. The school was commended for its dedication to providing high-quality education and nurturing the overall development of its students. The principal thanked the staff, students and parents for their continued support. — TNS

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## Divine Dhauladhars



A mystic view of the Dhauladhars after rain on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: KAMALJEET

# Birth anniv of state's founder Dr YS Parmar celebrated

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAHAN, AUGUST 4

The 118th birth anniversary of Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar, the founder of Himachal Pradesh and its first Chief Minister, was celebrated with great fervour at his birthplace, Chanhlag in Sirmaur district. The event was jointly organised by the District Language and Culture Department and the Maa Jwala Nagarkoti Temple Development Committee, Chanhlag.

The day commenced with a commemorative walk in the morning and around 150 participants undertook a journey of 2 km, honouring the memory of Dr Parmar. The walk was a reflection of the community's deep respect and admiration for the leader, who played a pivotal role in shaping the identity of Himachal Pradesh.

Deputy Commissioner of Sirmaur, Sumit Khimta, graced the occasion as the chief guest. He paid floral tributes at the statue of Dr Parmar, followed by a tree plantation ceremony on the temple premises. In his address, DC Khimta highlighted Dr Parmar's active involvement in the "Praja Mandal" movement and his significant contributions to India's freedom struggle.

He emphasised that Dr Parmar's leadership and tireless efforts were instrumental in securing a distinct identity for Himachal Pradesh, preserving the state's linguistic, artistic and cultural heritage. "Following the path and ideals laid down by Dr Parmar is the true homage we can pay to him," the DC remarked, underscoring the importance of continuing Dr Parmar's legacy.

Local leaders, including Ramesh Shastri, Lana Baga



Participants celebrate the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Dr YS Parmar at Chanhlag.



### ARCHITECT OF HIMACHAL

- Dr Parmar is hailed as the architect and founder of Himachal Pradesh
- Dr Parmar was born at Chanhlag village, in a prominent family in 1906. His father was the secretary to the then ruler of the Sirmaur princely state
- He did his schooling from Nahan and later, attended Foman Christian College in Lahore. Dr Parmar completed LLB and MA courses from Canning College in Lucknow and in 1944, he obtained a PhD from Lucknow University
- He died on May 2, 1981, at Snowdon Hospital in Shimla

chief Kuldeep Jaswal, Rajinder Singh and others also shared their views on the occasion.

A significant highlight of the celebration was the recognition of Dr Parmar's family members. The Language and Culture Department honoured his grandson Anand Parmar, his granddaughter-in-law Asha Parmar, their sons Yash Parmar and Jyotir Parmar, along with his granddaugh-

ter Devika Parmar.

The event was enlivened by cultural performances from the Hati Cultural Group of Bounal, which performed the traditional 'Sirmauri nati' and the Chudeshwar Folk Dance Group, which showcased the Singhatu dance, accompanied by musical instrument performances.

Among the attendees were senior officials, including the Executive Engineer of the PWD, Sarahan; the Deputy

Director of the Agriculture Department, Nahan; the Block Development Officer, Sarahan; the Tehsildar, Pachhad; the Lana Baga gram panchayat chief, the CDPO, Sarahan; and the Rajgarh DSP.

The District Language Officer, Kanta Negi, extended heartfelt thanks to all the participants.

The celebration concluded with a community feast organised by the temple development committee.

## Soldier killed in road mishap

NURPUR, AUGUST 4

Lance Naik Shubham Dhiman (26), hailing from Waken village of Dol-Bhated gram panchayat of the Jawali Assembly constituency, died in a road accident in Leh on Friday.

The mortal remains of the soldier arrived this afternoon and he was cremated with full military honours at his native village.

He was recruited in the Army in March, 2018, and was serving in the Dogra Regiment. The soldier's father, who died two years ago, was an Army veteran. Former MLA Arjun Thakur, BJP leader Sanjay Guleria, the tehsildar and Jawali SHO were also present at the cremation. — OC

## Officers' body to donate ₹ 5L to CM's Disaster Relief Fund

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

In response to the recent disaster that struck the state, the Himachal Pradesh Block Development Officers' Association has announced to donate Rs 5 lakh to the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. The gesture aims to support the state's recovery efforts and provide aid to the affected people.

The association will present the donation to the Chief Minister through the Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Anirudh Singh. The contribution includes a cheque for Rs 2 lakh, along with an

### Block Development Officers' Association to aid state's relief efforts

additional amount equivalent to one day's salary from each member, making the total donation exceed Rs 5 lakh.

Association president Gopi Chand Pathak and general secretary Gaurav Dhiman expressed their concern over the monsoon havoc, emphasising that the state had not yet fully recovered from the previous year's disaster. They called on district councils, panchayat samitis and gram

panchayats to contribute to the disaster relief fund.

Block development officers and the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department have consistently played a crucial role in disaster relief efforts. In the past, they have been instrumental in clearing village roads, reconstructing homes and essential infrastructure such as tanks and cowsheds in the disaster-hit areas.

Gaurav Dhiman said the association would continue its proactive role in disaster relief, working tirelessly to follow the government directives and aid in the state government's recovery efforts.

## Crackdown on encroachers in Jaisinghpur

RAVINDER SOOD

PALAMPUR, AUGUST 4

The local administration, along with the police, removed a large number of illegal structures and roadside encroachments in Jaisinghpur town today.

Jaisinghpur SDM Sanjiv Sharma and Baijnath DSP Anil Kumar, along with other officials, led the demolition drive. The administration initiated the drive on the demand of local residents as it was becoming difficult for pedestrians to move in the markets, where a number of persons had encroached upon the roads, streets and covered the drains of the PWD. Besides, a number of accidents were reported in the area due to the roadside encroachments.

The administration also removed illegal structures raised for parking vehicles, kiosks, vends and other extended structures that were covering drains. The SDM said most of the drains in the area were choked



The administration also removed illegal structures raised for parking vehicles that were covering drains.

because of encroachments and water flowed onto the streets and footpaths.

"We keep getting a lot of complaints regarding encroachments and illegal

structures in the area. Following the recent High Court orders, the administration launched the drive to remove the encroachments. There was no protest as the

administration had already warned most of the encroachers a number of times," the DSP said.

He said besides obstructing vehicular movement, the ille-

### HUTS DEMOLISHED

- Huts of migrant labourers that were constructed on the banks of the Beas were also dismantled
- Labourers, mostly working in local stone crushers, had occupied the government land and were also polluting the Beas
- There was a threat to their lives as the water level of the river was rising because of heavy rain in its catchment areas

gal structures also posed a threat to commuters, especially pedestrians. He added that the demolition campaign would continue till all the encroachments were removed.

Later, the huts of migrant labourers that were constructed on the banks of the Beas were also dismantled. Labourers, mostly working in local stone crushers, had occupied the government land and were also polluting the Beas. Besides, there was threat to their lives as the water level of the river was rising due to heavy rain in its catchment areas.

## Kangra MP recollects memories, recites ghazal at kavi sammelan

RAGHAV GULERIA

DHARAMSALA, AUGUST 4

The auditorium of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh's Dhauladhar campus in Dharamsala stood witness to a "kavi sammelan" organised under the joint aegis of Deendayal Upadhyaya Study Centre and National Kavi Sangam.

Rajiv Bhardwaj, the Member of Parliament from Kangra, was present as the chief guest and Sudeep Bhola, a well-known poet, as the special guest in the programme. Jagdish Mittal, National Kavi Sangam president and general secretary Shakti Singh Rana were also present on the occasion.

In his address, MP Bhardwaj shared his childhood memories with the audience and recited his favourite ghazal. He also urged the

### Certificate course in Kangri language begins at CUHP

FOCUS ON LITERATURE

Such programmes help in drawing attention towards literature. With the advent of digital technology, people have lost connectivity and such programmes help them connect with each other.

— Satpal Bansal, CUHP VICE CHANCELLOR

researchers of the university to work in the field of tourism for the social development of Dharamsala.

Presiding over the function, Vice Chancellor Dr

Satpal Bansal expressed his gratitude to National Kavi Sangam, adding that such programmes helped in drawing attention towards literature.

With the advent of digital technology, people had lost connectivity and such programmes help them connect with each other, he added.

According to the VC, a six-month certificate course in Kangri language was starting from this session by the Hindi Department of the university.

Also, the department will provide all possible support to get the works of poets and litterateurs available in the regional languages of Himachal Pradesh. Jagdish Mittal said their organisation was preparing a new generation of poets for the country.



MP Rajiv Bhardwaj and CUHP VC Dr Satpal Bansal in Dharamsala on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: KAMALJEET

## Shimla MC to act against illegal dumping

SHIMLA, AUGUST 4

The Shimla Municipal Corporation has decided to take stern action against illegal dumping. Mayor Surender Chauhan said nullahs and culverts were blocked mainly due to the rampant illegal dumping across the town.

He said it had been noticed that debris from the construction sites was being illegally dumped in the forests, which, in case of heavy rainfall, may lead to disaster-like situation. — TNS

## Kaza hospital gets new ultrasound machine

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

In a boost for the Spiti region, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rahul Jain inaugurated a new ultrasound machine at Kaza Civil Hospital.

The installation of the machine addresses a long-standing demand of the area, offering considerable benefits to local population.

During the inauguration, Rahul Jain emphasised the impact the ultrasound machine will have, particu-

### NO TRAVELLING TO LONG DISTANCES NOW

Previously, pregnant women had to travel several kilometres to Rampur or Kullu for ultrasound examinations. But, with the machine available locally, patients will no longer need to undertake long journeys, improving accessibility to essential medical services.

larly for expectant mothers. Previously, pregnant women had to travel several kilometres to Rampur or Kullu for ultrasound examinations, which was both time-consuming and challenging.

Now, with the machine available locally, patients will no longer need to undertake long journeys, improving accessibility to essential

medical services.

The machine is being managed by Dr Rohit Boyle, Assistant Professor of Radiology at IGMC-Shimla, who is part of the multi-specialty surgical camp. He is supported by Dr Abhishek and local medical officer Dr Jampa in the functioning of the new equipment.

The inauguration event

was attended by Kaza SDM Harsh Negi, Dr Bishan Das, Block Medical Officer Dr Tenzing and other hospital staff, who were present to show their support for the advancement in the medical facilities in the region.

"The introduction of the ultrasound machine marks a crucial step in improving healthcare services in the Spiti region, ensuring that residents receive timely and efficient medical care without the need for extensive travel," said Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana.

**WHEN HUGH HOGGED...**



Hugh Jackman, who has breathed life into Marvel Studios with his latest superhero movie *Deadpool & Wolverine*, appeared on the American chat show *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and revealed his daily calorie intake was a staggering 6,000 kcal. The actor said he ate chicken, tilapia and beans.

# Tribune Life

# Style

HIMACHAL | MONDAY | 5 AUGUST 2024

**Spotted**

Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio was seen vacationing in Italy with model Vittoria Ceretti. The two were seen enjoying a swim off the coast of Sardinia.



Zubin Mehta, whose film *Bus No 7* makes it to the online edition of IFFM, says he wants to tell simple stories and engage with people emotionally and artistically

## Driven by creativity



NONIKA SINGH

“I am not an intellectual...” With these words Chandigarh based, prolific theatre person Zubin Mehta lets us into the method behind his large body of work, including his films *Bus No 7* and *The Usher*. As the 60-minute *Bus No 7* makes it to the online edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), he not only stands a happy man but also at the cusp of new tidings. For someone who has dedicated nearly two decades of life to theatre, at the young age of 39, he is now interested in filmmaking. And as with theatre, his motto remains — “Training, formal or informal, is paramount.” “Intention and passion alone are not enough. You have to master the craft,” he says. This sagacious advice he proffers to not only students at his Wings Theatre Academy but practices it on his own self. Thus before turning behind the camera he self-trained himself in the art of filmmaking. Fully aware that theatre can often be too verbose, he ensured that his movies are more visual and paid much heed to imagery. “The difference between the two performing arts,” he feels, “is not too stark for at the end of the day in both its eyes that watch and ears that listen and both appeal to the head and the heart.” His movies, in fact, are slice of life, inspired as much from personal emotions as his keen eye for observation. A true incident in Chandigarh led him to imagining one of his key characters the female attendant in *Bus No 7*. Produced by Vivek High School, it talks of class differences as well as how three persons, including two students, dealing with voids in life, come together.

An avid bike rider, for his second film *The Usher* the seed was sown during one of his sojourns when he encountered a 13-year-old boy filling up for his ailing father at a *dhaba* in Rajasthan. Starring Samuel John the 14-minute film is self-funded and he sure is looking for sponsors. Indeed, for indie makers, film festival is the best route. As *Bus No 7* has also made it to yet another prestigious festival Tasveer South-Asian Film Festival, he shares, “Not only you get exposure and



A scene from Mehta's play *Lamb To The Slaughter*

**FIRST LOVE**

Acting may have been an occasional foray for Zubin Mehta whose love for theatre began with donning the greasepaint in his formative years. But he thoroughly enjoyed his acting stint in acclaimed web series *Kohrra*. Especially, he loved his rapport with one of its leads Suvinder Vicky.

audiences at film festivals but also avenues for finance.” Interestingly, his ideal is renowned Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi whose film *Children of Heaven* he adapted for a play.

With 80 plus productions to his credit, Zubin's theatre innings has been most satisfying. Beginning his career on stage at the age of nine, his mentor has been the late Gursharan Singh. Only over a period of time he felt that aesthetics need to be as integral a part of a play as passion that drives it. Associated with stage productions of several elite schools of the City Beautiful, he insists, “Schools don't impose diktats and have allowed me to do theatre the way I want to and the kind I want to.” But, yes, one adverse fallout could be, “People tend to see your work as child's play and don't take you as seriously.” An avid theatre buff himself, he is an ardent admirer of theatre czarina Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry and is especially taken in by her visual language, “so brilliant and stunning that often cinema

can't achieve the same effect.”

What he intends to do through his newfound ardour for cinema is to tell simple stories and engage with people emotionally and artistically too. When he set up Wings Theatre Academy, the idea was not to create professional actors but to create empathetic human beings. As the world is moving towards corporate order of ‘profit, profit and profit,’ he feels theatre can make us sensible and sensitive. In his new flight as a filmmaker he may have bid adieu to school productions but theatre will remain his first and abiding love. Much of his life may have gone into creating plays in English but in the world of cinema he is aspiring to make a Punjabi feature film.



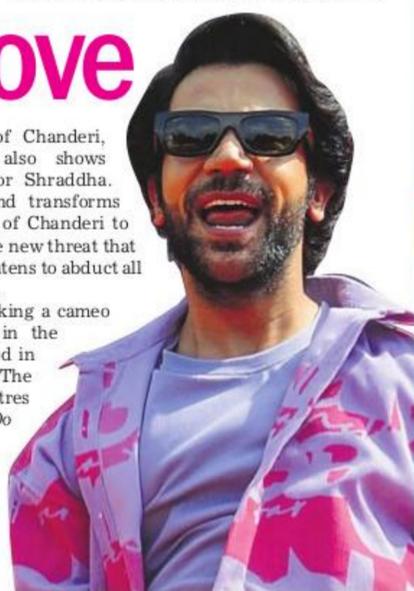
A still from *Bus No 7*

RajKummar Rao pens special birthday wish for *Stree 2* director Amar Kaushik

## To bhai, with love

Actor RajKummar Rao penned a special birthday message for *Stree 2* director Amar Kaushik on Sunday. Re-sharing the monochrome post of Amar Kaushik on his Instagram story, RajKummar wrote, “*Mere pyare bhai. Janmdin ki bahut bahut badhaai. Bas aise hi rahna hamesha. I love you @amarkaushik.*” Speaking of *Stree 2*, the film will see Shraddha Kapoor and RajKummar reprising their roles with Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurana and Abhishek Banerjee. The film promises a return to the spooky yet hilarious world where the *Stree* continues to terrify men. Makers recently unveiled the highly anticipated trailer of the horror comedy. Taking to Instagram, Shraddha treated fans with the trailer video. The trailer begins with Pankaj Tripathi's character introducing the new

threat to the people of Chanderi, Sarkata. The trailer also shows Vicky's love interest for Shraddha. Vicky steps forward and transforms himself into the prince of Chanderi to save the women from the new threat that emerges as Sarkata threatens to abduct all the women of the village. Tamannaah Bhatia making a cameo with a dance number in the movie. *Stree* was released in 2018 and was a hit. The sequel will be out in theatres in August this year. *Oo Stree Kal Aana*, a phrase from the movie, has been repeatedly used in memes. *Stree 2* will hit the theatres on August 15. —ANI



Punjabi actress Preet Kamal will be seen in Bollywood project

KARMAN SINGH

After *Fer Mamla Gadbadi Hai*, Preet Kamal is currently busy shooting for her upcoming Bollywood project, titled *Continuity*. The film is directed by Chandeeep Dhaliwal. The shoot is taking place in the picturesque city of Dehradun, and Kamal is thoroughly enjoying her time there. “Being in Dehradun

feels amazing. I'm enjoying the essence of this city in terms of food, weather, and the people,” she says. Acting has always been a passion for Kamal. She shares, “This project has been incredibly enjoyable, and I would love to explore more avenues where I can showcase my skills.”

In her eight-year-long career, Kamal has acted in both Hindi and Punjabi projects and has worked alongside actors like Ravi Kishan and Deepak Dobriyal. “Sharing screen with such talented actors has been a tremendous learning experience, and I feel I have evolved so much,” she says.

