

## HIMACHAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Safety system in private, public buses: Overloading to be tracked through alarm, GPS

Following the Banjar accident in which 45 innocent lives were lost, the state Transport Department has decided to install integrated automated passenger safety system in both private and public buses to check overloading and overspeeding. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 40 crore.

Alarms and global positioning system will be installed in all buses to track the location of vehicles.

Regional transport offices (RTOs) will get real-time information on the number of passengers on board a bus through the alarm and GPS system.

Speed governor will provide information on its speed. Those who violate norms will be caught and penalised there and then.

A software for the system was being developed and it would be ready for implementation within six months.

To check the fitness of buses, an automated testing system would be set up. Vehicles that failed the test would not be allowed to ply on roads and their permits would be cancelled,

Transport Department will start fitness programme for drivers as well. There will be zero tolerance for traffic rule violations

### “Rising Himachal: Global Investors’ Meet 2019” : New Developments

The Global Investors’ Meet 2019 is the flagship business event of Himachal Pradesh and its inaugural edition will be held at Dharamsala on November 7 and 8.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur reached Dubai for a four-day visit to UAE. He was accompanied by Industries Minister Bikram Singh along with a high-level delegation of senior officials of the state. The purpose of the visit is to project Himachal Pradesh as an attractive investment destination in sectors such as horticulture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy, food processing, logistics, education and skill development, stated official release here.

The Himachal government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nomisma, Banking and Financial Advisory, Nilgiri Trading for development of luxury resort with prime focus on destination wedding for an amount of Rs 1,000 crore.

The delegation of the state led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also signed MoUs with M/s MKS Group for investment in naturopathy resort worth Rs 100 crore and affordable housing worth Rs 150 crore, a release issued here today said.

Another MoU was signed between the Himachal Government and the UAE India Business Council for highlighting investment opportunities in the state. UAE India Business Council is the official joint business council set up by the governments of India and UAE for promoting economic synergy between the two countries.

The state government has succeeded in signing memorandum of understandings (MoUs) worth Rs 22,964 crore during the last about one-and-a-half years.

#### Key Highlights

The state government has set a target of attracting investment worth Rs 85,000 crore which includes Rs 20,000 crore investment in hydro and renewal energy, real estate, urban development infrastructure, transport and logistics. Similarly, a target of attracting investment worth Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 10,000 crore have been fixed for manufacturing and pharmaceutical sector and in tourism, hospitality and civil aviation, respectively.

Besides, targets have been fixed for attracting investments worth Rs 5,000 crore each in sectors like agri-business, food processing and post harvest technology, wellness, health care and Ayush,

information technology and electronics, education and skill development, 164 MoUs have been signed and uploaded in Him Pragati which is a platform where the investors could raise their issues.

### National Nutrition Mission

The Central government has chosen the Bhoranj in Hamirpur district under its National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to eradicate anaemia and malnutrition. The other blocks under the scheme are Bangana in Una and Tissa in Chamba.

The estimated project time is six months. Focus would be on children between 5-11 years, adolescent girls between 11-19, and women up to the age of 45.

For the mission, Rs 9046.17 crore was allocated. It aims at raising the nutrition levels in the country.

To achieve the target, the mission comprises mapping of various schemes to address the problems.

#### Objective of the NNM:

The target of the mission is to reduce the percentage of stunted growth; malnourished youth; anaemic children, women and adolescent girls.

### India-China trade on barter system

The India-China cross border trade across the 18,599 feet Shipki La started with seven traders crossing over with their merchandise even as the ban on trade of livestock, which is in huge demand, continues.

A total of 62 traders have applied for permits for the cross-border trade still being undertaken on barter system. The authorities have issued permits to 18 traders and finished the verification of another 10.

All seven traders, who went across Tibet, hail from Chango village. They carried carpets, spices and other handloom articles which are in great demand in Tibet.

#### Key Highlights:

The trade has started since 1992 and registered a steady increase, except last year.

The ban on the sale of livestock, which is in a huge demand on the Indian side, still continues. Despite the state government requesting the Ministry of Commerce to lift the ban on livestock trading, the Centre has yet to yield to the plea.

The traders have been demanding a quarantine laboratory at Chupan and Namgiya to pave the way for resumption of livestock trade like chiku goats, horses and mules.

### 'zero waste' tag to 500 panchayats

The government has asked district officials to identify at least one solid liquid management (SLM) cluster consisting of 10 to 12 gram panchayats (GPs) to make 500 panchayats as zero waste panchayats by October 2. So far 12 SLM clusters have been identified in 109 GPs, stated an official release issued here.

According to the release, all development blocks have prepared block level solid liquid waste management (SLWM) plan. It is proposed to make at least 500 gram panchayats "Zero Waste GP" by October 2. The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for the year 2019-20 has been approved with budgetary provision of Rs 427.42 crore.

#### Other details:

Rural areas of Himachal Pradesh became open defecation free (ODF) on October 28, 2016. Thereafter, focus under Swachh Bharat Mission has shifted to the ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM). The release said Rs. 103.68 crore has been utilized in 768 gram panchayats. They built soak pit, magic pit, leach pit and drains at individual and community level under the mission.

### HP University to have policy for persons with disabilities

Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) will be the first one in the country to have its own policy for persons with disabilities.

A committee, constituted by the Vice-Chancellor, will prepare the draft policy document which will be implemented after the approval of the Executive Council (EC).

A decision was taken at a meeting of the EC after the issue was raised by Ajai Srivastava, an EC member, holding additional charge of the nodal officer for disability affairs of the HPU.

The proposed policy document will incorporate all legislative provisions for students, employees and teachers, apart from the relevant judgments of the Supreme Court and HP High Court.

### Mobile App for 'Drug-Free Himachal'

The state government is committed to making Himachal Pradesh drug-free by ensuring the effective enforcement of law to check this menace, besides ensuring people's participation for making it a mass movement, A major part of the anti-drug strategy of the state government focuses on certain drugs originally derived from plant sources such as cannabis and opium, he said, adding that the state government has taken stringent steps against cultivation of these drugs.

The Chief Minister launched 'Student Police Cadet Programme' on the occasion. The programme envisages inculcating respect for the laws, enforcing discipline and civic sense and developing empathy for vulnerable sections of society.

He also launched an app on 'Drug-Free Himachal' and 'Nasha Nivaran Toll Free Helpline-1908' and said anyone can register complaint against drug peddler through the app.

### 'Speed up project to diversify crop'

The state government has urged the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA-India) to expedite the Rs 1,104-crore crop diversification promotion project for the state.

Government proposed Phase II of JICA-supported project would be extended to all 12 districts of the state.

Government stated the study on the impact assessment of crop diversification was conducted by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management "MANAGE", Hyderabad. The major findings of the study were that the area under vegetables had increased by 232 per cent (rabi) and 328 per cent (kharif) and the increase in the yield of vegetables was 108 per cent.

As a result of diversification, the area under paddy, wheat, maize and barley declined by 23 per cent, 16 per cent, 23 per cent and 76 per cent. On the contrary, the yield increased up to 30 per cent in wheat, 17 per cent in paddy, 21.17 per cent in maize and 37 per cent in fodder crops.

The study further said positive growth in the area and production of vegetables increased the share of vegetables from 13.9 per cent to 41.98 per cent.

### Himachal Pradesh Film Development Council

The government will set up the Himachal Pradesh Film Development Council to develop film industry in the state.

The council will delegate its financial powers to the executive committee, which will examine the eligibility and fix criteria to provide financial and other incentives to film makers, stated a release here today.

The government has approved the Film Policy-2019 to create an amiable atmosphere that will not only facilitate film shooting at a large scale, but also ensure all-round development of film production.

It will also provide opportunity to the talent in all departments of film making and generate job opportunities, besides attracting additional capital investment through film industry.

A film development fund will be created by the state government in Information and Public Relations Department for financing schemes for the development of films and film-related infrastructure. For this fund, a cess of 50 paise per bottle of liquor will be levied.

The government will create infrastructure required for making films in the private sector.

The government will also provide land on lease for film city.

### 9 lakh state farmers to be trained in natural farming

To achieve the target of doubling farm income by 2022, as many as 9.61 lakh farmers of the state will be trained in Subhash Palekar's natural farming techniques.

Government targeted to train 50,000 farmers in natural farming this year and awareness programmes were being conducted in every district.

Several studies had proved the harmful effects of the use of chemicals on human health and renowned doctors had undertaken studies on the proliferation of cancer owing to the use of chemical fertilisers on crops.

### Chanshal to be developed as winter sports destination

Under 'Nai Rahein, Nai Manjilein' scheme of the state government to explore lesser known tourist destinations in the state.

The state government will develop Janjehli area in Mandi district from eco-tourism point of view, Bir Billing in Kangra district as destination of para gliding and adventure sports, Pong Dam as water sports destination and Chanshal area in Shimla district as favoured destination for winter sports and skiing.

In addition to this, an interpretation centre would be established at Bandal in proposed Baglamukhi Nature Park. Also a cactus garden, a ropeway, a nature walk and rock climbing facilities would also be developed in the area.

Government also noted Pong Dam in Kangra district has been declared as Ramsar site which is world famous site for bird watchers as lakhs of birds migrate to this place every year from as far as Siberia. The place would be developed by constructing about 15 log huts besides constructing nature trail and bird viewpoints to make the place tourists friendly.

### 'Mehtar' all set to revive village economy

Sirmaur DC, brainchild behind the idea, kicks off 'Operation camel milk flood' in remote Bhedon village of the district. It was during a recent field visit to the village that the DC came across the idea of launching such an operation. He was impressed seeing camels being reared by the local population, comprising mostly Gujjars.

Camel milk is high in nutrients and is used for controlling blood sugar. It is also a wholesome food for children that can help prevent malnutrition.

Adult female camel nicknamed Mehtar, brought from Bikaner with administration help.

The district administration plans to have a small pasteurisation facility in the village to increase the shelf life of milk.

The District Ayurvedic Officer has been asked to start an experiment of camel milk on diabetic patients and gauge its effect.

### Govt abolishes State Administrative Tribunal

The uncertainty over the future of the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) was over as the Cabinet today decided to abolish it.

#### Important Facts

SAT had been set up on September 1, 1986, with Justice HS Thakur being its first Chairman.

The CM had hinted that his government was planning to wind up SAT as the cases were not being decided on merit.

The Tribunal had become a political issue between the BJP and the Congress

The previous BJP regime, headed by PK Dhumal, had abolished it in July 2008

It was the Virbhadra-led Congress regime which reinstated it on February 28, 2014

### Second Horticulture University

The government will set up the second horticulture university at Thunag in Seraj, the home constituency of the Chief Minister.

It was BJP vision document had made a promise and the work on the new horticulture university was under process. Suresh Bhardwaj said the vision document aimed at providing better services to common masses.

Other developments:

First instalment of Rs 70.18 lakh from the Centre under the Integrated Horticulture Mission had been given to eligible farmers.

The two new cold stores would come up at Karsog and Janjehli, while Gumma, Jarol-Tikkar, Oddy, and Rohru stores were being upgraded.

Farmers could change five-year old polyhouses and polysheets for which they had been given Rs 1 crore Central grant under Chief Minister Green House Renovation scheme.

### **Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the new Governor**

Senior BJP leader and former minister Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the new Governor, while incumbent Acharya Devvrat has been transferred to Gujarat.

The term of Devvrat, who assumed office on August 12, 2015, ends on August 12, 2020.

Born on July 1, 1941, Mishra is a veteran politician and held several posts in the organisation.

He also remained the in-charge of organisational affairs for Himachal for two years and was elected to Lok Sabha from the Deoria constituency in Uttar Pradesh in 2014 and elected to Rajya Sabha thrice in 1978, 2001 and 2006.

He was a Cabinet Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government from March 1997 to August 2000, holding the portfolios of Public Works, Medical Education and Tourism. Acharya, who occupied the centre stage with his zero-budget natural farming, has been shifted to the home state of Modi.

Out of the 18 regular Governors, who adorned the Raj Bhawan since January 25, 1971, when Himachal was granted statehood, 15 did not complete their term and were either shifted, removed or resigned. Devvrat is the 15th Governor to leave the Raj Bhawan before the completion of his term.

First Governor S Chakravarti, who held office from January 25, 1971, to February 16, 1977, Justice Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje (retd) from May 8, 2003 to July 19, 2008 and Urmila Singh from January 25, 2010, to January 24, 2015, completed their term.

### **Himachal bags Rs 4.5 crore project on skill development**

The state government will train unemployed youth in tools and techniques in the area of biotechnology within a period of three years. The training will be given under Rs 4.5-crore skill development project. According to the government spokesperson, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated the new Skill Vigyan Programme for training educated youth in multi-disciplinary areas of biotechnology. Thanks to the efforts of the HP Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) that has succeeded in getting this project in the first phase.

DC Rana, Member Secretary, HIMCOSTE, said the programme would be executed in collaboration with the Life Science Sector Skill Development Council. The trained youth will get jobs.

HIMCOSTE has roped in eight best research laboratories and academic institutions. For quality control, two trainings of three-month duration each, will be conducted every year in seven institutions. They will be trained as laboratory technician and assistant for a year. The production or machine operator training course will also be conducted at the Himalayan Skill Development Centre, Sirmaur.

### **“Mukhyamantri Roshni Yojana”**

Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd (HPSEBL) has targeted to provide 17,550 free electricity connections to poor families under the “Mukhyamantri Roshni Yojana” in 2019-20.

To be eligible, a person should be a member of either of the following: the BPL family; the family covered under the “Antyodaya Anna Yojana”; priority household or whose annual income from all sources, doesn't exceed Rs35,000. Also, the selected households load should not exceed 2 kW.

“This scheme is being implemented in the state and funds for the same will come from the state

government,

HPSEBL managing director JP Kalta said the Chief Minister had announced the scheme in the Budget speech in Vidhan Sabha. On observing the trends of the previous year, the board would incur the expenditure of Rs13.16 crore. To avail benefit, one has to be eligible and certified by a competent authority.

Marred by delay and cost overruns, Himachal Power Corporation Ltd (HPCL) started the filling the barrage of the 111 MW Sawra-Kuddu hydroelectric project on the Pabber river in Shimla district for testing.

According to the HPCL sources, the main bottleneck in the construction of this project was excavation of 11.365 km head race tunnel. The project will generate 386 million units per annum in a 90 % dependable year. It has 11.365-km long, 5 m finished diameter head race tunnel (HRT) and three turbines, each of 37 MW capacity.

After commissioning, each project affected family will be provided 100 units of electricity per month for a period of 10 years.

Satya Prakash Thakur, chairman of Bhuttico, said the annual Thakur Ved Ram International Awards ceremony to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Bhuttico founder would be held on August 7.

Satya Thakur said the list of awardees had been finalised by the National Award Committee (NAC). The awards would be given for special contributions to the fields of literature, art, language and culture, journalism, handicraft and handloom.

To facilitate investors in obtaining time-bound permissions and making the procedures less cumbersome, Himachal Government will now only accept online common application forms (CAF) for investment proposals which will have to be processed within 45 days time.

The Himachal Government has issued a notification where the constitution and terms of reference of the State Level Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority have been changed to facilitate speedy sanctions. Now only online applications for seeking permissions for setting up a project be it in industry, power, tourism, health, agriculture or horticulture will be accepted by the State Level Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority.

Earlier, there was no time period specified for clearing or rejecting a proposal by the authority which is headed by the Chief Minister and industry minister, Chief Secretary and other senior officers from Forest, Public Works, Power, Irrigation and Public Health, Labour, Revenue, Tourism and Pollution Control Board.

All e-applications of industrial projects received by the State Single Window Nodal Officer will be examined and forwarded electronically to the Departmental Nodal Officer of concerned regulatory departments like electricity, irrigation and public health, forest, excise and taxation, labour and employment and others. The concerned departments will furnish necessary clearance/pre-regulatory establishment approvals/comments within seven working days from the date of its circulation.

Now all projects up to investment of Rs 5 crore instead of Rs 10 crore will be placed before it.

A sub-committee under the chairmanship of the Director/Commissioner Industries and other officials from various departments will examine/recommend the proposals to the Single Window Authority within 15 days.

Even if no comments are received from the concerned departments within stipulated period the proposal will be included in the agenda of the State Level Authority and the department concerned will explain its position before the authority and the case would be decided accordingly.

### Spectacular 3D light shows to delight tourists

The state government is contemplating multi-dimensional, multi-sensory and multi-media light shows in a few strategic locations of the state to provide an added attraction to locals as well as tourists. This was stated by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur during a presentation made by internationally acclaimed actor, producer and media entrepreneur Deepa Sahi, here today. She is also the chairperson of Mayanagri World One, a heritage tourism theme park initiative currently developing Gobindgarh Fort in Punjab as a high-tech cultural hub.

The virtual cultural hub with the assistance of multi-media lights would create a viable and sustainable model for cultural enterprises with latest media-entertainment technology, it is learnt.

Efforts would also be made to showcase myths and legends of the Himalayan region with giant-size images projected directly on to the mountain landscape. This would be mesmerising for the tourists as the mountains would virtually come alive.

The epic show created through computer generated imagery, digital visual effects, live shooting, paintings and laser light and sound would create a gigantic and impressive show. The tourists would be provided 7D thrilling adventure sports experiences through stereoscopic 3D project through hydraulically moving platform.

The nature park at Mohal near Kullu, Baragah near Manali and Reporting Room, Shimla, are a few places, where such shows could be organised. Thakur said the state government could also consider taking up the matter with the Union Human Resources Development Ministry for allowing the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, to organise these activities.

### War museums to be opened in all districts

On the occasion of Vijay Divas, Rural Development minister Virender Kanwar state government has decided to open war museums in every district of the state.

### Smartshala in 10,661 schools

CM Jai Ram Thakur launched Sampark Smartshala English and Maths Programme under Samagra Shiksha Himachal. The major objective of the scheme was to ensure the provision of quality education. CM launched English Smartshala kit and Smartshala work book, whereas Education Minister Suresh Bhardwaj launched Maths Smartshala kit.

The CM also launched "Shiksha Saath Mobile App" for monitoring and evaluating the education system in the schools which would work offline as well. He also launched "e-Samwad mobile app" to create direct contact with the teachers and parents under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. This would be made available to over 15,000 schools.

Founder Chairman, Sampark Foundation, Vineet Nayar said the foundation was running Sampark Smartshala in 76,000 schools in six states and the foundation aimed at training over 55,000 teachers on Sampark Smartshala Programme in 2019-20.

### Mukhya mantra Harit Vidyalaya Abhiyan to be held across State

The state government is committed to environmental conservation, increase forest cover and preserve natural beauty.

Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education, Education Department, and Forest Department will start 'Mukhya mantra Harit Vidyalaya Abhiyan' from 9 to 16

August 2019 to plant saplings in the different schools of the state.

Forest cover has always been given priority in the state and forest resources are valuable to the people.

The state government has banned the cutting of trees and by availing gas connection under Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna, the felling of trees for cooking has been reduced immensely.

### The Agriculture University of HP secured 11th rank in the country

Chaudhary Sarvan Kumar Agricultural University, Palampur has jumped from 23rd to 11th rank among 75 agricultural universities of the country.

The natural farming centre has been set up in the University last year which is first of its kind in the country.

More than 40,000 farmers are being trained and provided services by university extension department annually.

A record 17,000 applications have been received for 152 seats in agriculture and veterinary programmes this year.

### Mukhya Mantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojna

HP Cabinet gave its approval for implementation of Mukhya Mantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojna (Phase-I) with a total out lost of Rs. 78.57 crore for construction of poly house, installation of micro-irrigation scheme and undertaking extension activities like training and sensitization of farmers.

### 'Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna- 2019

The Cabinet gave its consent to increase the upper age limit for availing the benefits of newly launched 'Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna- 2019 from 35 years to 45 years so as to cover more people under this scheme which has been framed by the merger of Mukhya Mantri Yuva Ajivika Yojna and Mukhya Mantri Swablamban Yojna-2018.

### Center of Excellence For Dairy Farming to be built with 44.12 Crore

Central Government has approved construction of modern dairy farms and training centers at various places in the state.

The dairy farms to be built under this center will have the facility of keeping 400 milch animals along with modern machines for these farms.

The creation of the farms will add to the income of farmers and also help in improving the quality of livestock and milk.

With the help of modern technology, conception techniques in animals will be improved.

It will also help in preventing diseases among animals.

Some important facts:

Regional Horticulture Research and Training Station is situated in Craignano at Mashobra.

State Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) is situated at Mashobra.

Implementation (MoSPI) in 2019 to provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all economic establishments in the country.

The Economic Census provides valuable insights into a geographical spread, clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged etc. of the establishments with or without fixed premises engaged in economic activity.

For the conduct of 7th EC, MoSPI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as the implementing agency.

The enumerators and supervisors engaged by CSC have been trained to collect data on a mobile application developed for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination.