

पाठक एवं एडिटर नोट करें
 पत्रिका के विभिन्न अंशों में प्रकाशित होने वाले लेखों के लेखकों को प्रकाशक के पते पर प्रेषित करने के लिए प्रार्थना की जाती है।
 Email: jagbani@pkesari.in
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 या पत्रिका के पते पर प्रेषित करें।

WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2022

सूर्योदय 05:39

सूर्यास्त 07:18

अगले 24 घंटे में बायल रहेंगे।

GURGAON KESARI

न्यूज ब्रीफ

मरीच के परिजनों ने किया हंगामा

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): मरीच के परिजनों ने मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है। मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है। मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है।

मेडिकल स्टोर संवालक से मारपीट

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): शहर का एक मेडिकल स्टोर संवालक से मारपीट का शिकार हुआ है। मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है।

नैकमपुरा के लगे पारो पीक एज ने बताया कि उसकी टीक

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): नैकमपुरा के लगे पारो पीक एज ने बताया कि उसकी टीक... मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है।

निर्माण करने पहुंचे कर्मियों से मारपीट

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): शहर के निर्माण करने पहुंचे कर्मियों से मारपीट का शिकार हुआ है। मरीच के परिवार को हंगामा किए जाने का आरोप लगाया है।

कैमिकल फैक्ट्री में आग, लाखों का नुकसान

बहरामपुर स्थित फैक्ट्री में हुई घटना में कोई हताहत नहीं, एक घंटे में पाया काबू



कंपनी में लगी आग में जला साधना।

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): बहरामपुर स्थित एक कैमिकल फैक्ट्री में सोमवार को दोपहर 4 बजे आग लग गई। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई।

फायर अधिकारी का कहना

फायर अधिकारी का कहना है कि आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई।

कंपनी में लगी आग में जला साधना। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई। आग लगने के बाद फैक्ट्री में आग लग गई।

मंदिरों में शिवभक्तों का लगा रहा तांता



विशाल भण्डारों व मेलों का हुआ आयोजन

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): शहर के विभिन्न मंदिरों में शिवभक्तों का लगा रहा तांता। विशाल भण्डारों व मेलों का हुआ आयोजन। शहर के विभिन्न मंदिरों में शिवभक्तों का लगा रहा तांता।

ऑनलाइन शराब मंगाने पर चपट

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): शहर में ऑनलाइन शराब मंगाने पर चपट। शहर में ऑनलाइन शराब मंगाने पर चपट। शहर में ऑनलाइन शराब मंगाने पर चपट।

हंगामा करने से रोका तो पुलिसकर्मी को ईट मारी

इंडाहेड़ा वृस्टिंग स्टेशन के पास हुई घटना

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): इंडाहेड़ा वृस्टिंग स्टेशन के पास हुई घटना। हंगामा करने से रोका तो पुलिसकर्मी को ईट मारी। हंगामा करने से रोका तो पुलिसकर्मी को ईट मारी।

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डेढ़ हजार के लिए की थी युवक की गला दबाकर हत्या, आरोपी काबू

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): शहर में डेढ़ हजार के लिए की थी युवक की गला दबाकर हत्या, आरोपी काबू। शहर में डेढ़ हजार के लिए की थी युवक की गला दबाकर हत्या, आरोपी काबू।

आज का तापमान 35 डिग्री सेल्सियस

रविवार 27

आज का तापमान 34 डिग्री सेल्सियस

कल का तापमान 34 डिग्री सेल्सियस

पंचायत मंत्री ने की ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं की समीक्षा की

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): पंचायत मंत्री ने ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं की समीक्षा की। पंचायत मंत्री ने ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं की समीक्षा की।

अधिकारियों को सौपी जिम्मेदारियां

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): अधिकारियों को सौपी जिम्मेदारियां। अधिकारियों को सौपी जिम्मेदारियां। अधिकारियों को सौपी जिम्मेदारियां।

मुख्यमंत्री की घोषणा होने से लेकर 45 दिन में धरातल पर काम शुरू हो : पंचायत मंत्री

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): मुख्यमंत्री की घोषणा होने से लेकर 45 दिन में धरातल पर काम शुरू हो : पंचायत मंत्री। मुख्यमंत्री की घोषणा होने से लेकर 45 दिन में धरातल पर काम शुरू हो : पंचायत मंत्री।

महिला से छेड़छाड़

गुरुग्राम, 26 जुलाई (भूपी): महिला से छेड़छाड़ का शिकार हुआ है। महिला से छेड़छाड़ का शिकार हुआ है। महिला से छेड़छाड़ का शिकार हुआ है।

जल्द हवा में उड़कर आपके पास आएगा खाना

ड्रोन से लोगों को खाना पहुंचाने, गुरुग्राम में फ्लाई वर सुलभ। ड्रोन से लोगों को खाना पहुंचाने, गुरुग्राम में फ्लाई वर सुलभ।



ड्रोन कोर्स पर ड्रोन उड़ान पर परीक्षा कराते।

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EE	1	2	2	Registrar -1
Mechanical	1	2	8	Administrative officer-1
Civil	1	1	1	Head clerk -1
English	-	-	2	Assistant -1
Physics	-	1	1	clerk cum typist -1
Mathematics	1	-	2	Librarian -1
Chemistry	-	-	1	Junior Librarian -1
Management	1	1	24	Lab Assistant -3
BCA	-	-	1	Lab Technician -5
Data Science	-	-	5	Lab attendant -5
AIML	-	1	6	Library attendant -1
Environmental Science	-	-	2	sports officer -1
				storekeeper -2

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Heavy rain lashes state, 23 roads blocked Cong brainstorms for 5 hrs, Shimla meet in early Aug

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 24 The local MT Office has issued orange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunder, storm and lightning in low hills and mid hills on July 25 and yellow warning of heavy rains in low and mid hills on July 25, 26 and 27.

The office has also cautioned of damage to fruit plants and new plantations due to heavy rainfall tomorrow. It said supply of electricity may be affected and possibility of landslides in hilly areas cannot be ruled out in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Solan districts.

As many as 23 roads — 14 in Kullu, five in Bilaspur and one each in Chamba, Kangra, Mandi and Solan were blocked for vehicular traffic due to rain. As many as 16 water supply schemes were disrupted in the state.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall lashed parts of Mandi and Kangra districts during the day. A heavy rain was witnessed with 120 mm of rain followed by Dharamsala (71 mm), Rajah (68 mm), Shillari (61 mm), Salsandhar (60 mm) and Salsandhar (40 mm).

Narsarda recording a low of 12.8 degree C was noted at night while Dhulala Kuan was hottest during the day with a high of 34.4 degree C.



Tourists enjoy the misty weather at the Ridge in Shimla on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO LALIT MOHAN

Landslide hits Bilaspur village

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAMPUR, JULY 24 Heavy loss to government and private properties was reported following a landslide in a Dhariat village of Bilaspur today. The loss to livestock was also reported by the District Disaster Management Authority. A cow shelter was destroyed where two buffaloes and 12 goats were buried under the debris of landslide that occurred after heavy rain in Kish Mahw gram panchayat in Ghumawat subdivision in the past few hours today. Apart from the cow shelter, roads leading to villages in the area were



also damaged. The road to Mahw turned into a mullah while a portion of another road was washed away.

Ghumawat SDA Rajeev Thakur said the cow-shelter of Sangar Kumar of Dhariat village had been damaged. He said there was a massive damage to the roads leading to the area and it was disconnected for vehicular traffic. He said an immediate relief of Rs 30,000 was given to the affected family. He said heavy machinery was pressed into service to clear the roads.

«The PWD road, which leads to Kish Mahw, buried under the debris from landslide.

2 men feared washed away in Parbati

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULU, JULY 24 Two youths were feared washed away in the Parbati. They are missing since July 20.

Yesterday, a jacket having an identity card of the river near Parvati cafe in Chharot Nala in the Parbati Valley.

Kullu Superintendent of Police Gurdev Sharma said Vinod Kumar and

It is suspected that their car plunged into river Arun Kumar, both residents of Shilla village, were returning from Chhenur Kabika on July 20 when they went missing. He said the Aadhaar card of Vinod was found in the jacket along the banks of the river.

He said it was suspected that their car plunged into the river and both of them were washed away. He said the police were investigating the matter and a search operation was underway.

Cong brainstorms for 5 hrs, Shimla meet in early Aug

'Sarkar badlo, halaat badlo' one of key poll slogans

ADITI TANDON

DELHI, JULY 24

The Congress on Sunday held an elaborate five-hour brainstorming here to discuss the roadmap for the upcoming Himachal Pradesh elections and to congregate in Shimla in early August for a state-level meeting on poll strategy.

The meeting chaired by special AICC officer for Himachal elections and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel ended with an understanding that the party needed to plan for Himachal elections "not with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in mind but with the realization that the entire BJP campaign would be planned and executed from the Centre."

AICC leaders said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda and Union minister Anurag Thakur were to be kept on top of all thinking insofar as Himachal election planning goes.

Also attended by AICC observers for state elections Partap Bajwa and

CAN'T BE COMPLACENT

«We discussed the fact that we cannot be complacent given BJP's recent return to power in UP and Uttarakhand, states not known to re-elect incumbent governments. We have to be prepared to not only preserve but also expand our vote base.

Congress leader

Sachin Pilot, state Congress chief Pratibha Singh, CLP leader Mukesh Agnihotri, Himachal Congress working president and AICC secretary for the state, the meeting held at Chhattisgarh Bhawan here lasted for five hours.

Sources said the participants had decided to meet with state level leaders in Shimla to further deliberate on the roadmap. Tentative dates for the Shimla meeting are August 7 and 8. Bhupesh Baghel will come to Shimla for the meeting," a source said.

The Congress today also zeroed in on "Sarkar badlo, halaat badlo" as its princi-

pals election slogan in Himachal Pradesh and in working on more plans for canvassing with the understanding that rising prices, shrinking job market should remain at the centre of poll planning.

Sources said the party has also finalized a firm for social media and media strategizing and outreach, ahead of elections in 2023. On the issue of challenges, the leaders agreed that the ruling BJP would "put in everything it had" to retain power in the state, a home state of Nadda and Thakur.

«We discussed the fact that we cannot be complacent given BJP's recent return to power in UP and Uttarakhand, states not known to re-elect incumbent governments. We have to be prepared to not only preserve but also expand our vote base," a Congress leader said.

On the AAP, the AICC leaders felt it might play a spoiler as it did in elections in other states recently. "Our political responses have to reflect the power dynamics of AAP," Congress leaders said.

281 new Covid cases in state

SHIMLA, JULY 24

As many as 281 new Covid cases were reported in the state today. The maximum of 127 cases were detected in Kangra, followed by Shimla (41), Mandi (37), Chamba (22), Solan (12), Kullu (11), Una (8), Hamirpur 7, Bilaspur and Kinnaur (6 each) and Sirmour (4) — TNS

COVID METER

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Includes Samples tested (47,66,703), Recovered (2,85,759), Active (4,053), New cases (281), Positive (2,93,969), Deaths (4,136).

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

Table with 2 columns: District and Cases. Lists districts like Shimla, Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour, Solan, Una, and Total.

ADB nod to ₹770-cr loan for potable water project

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of around Rs 770 crore to fund a safe drinking water and sanitation project in Himachal Pradesh. The loan has been provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Lavelhood Project. The ADB said in a press note on Saturday.

It said that more than 90 per cent of the state's rural population had access to drinking water, but the water supply infrastructure was old and had deteriorated over the time, resulting in inefficient and poor service. The ADB project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 3.7 lakh residents in 10 districts. «The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024," said Jude Kohliase, ADB Unit Head of Project Administration on Urban Development

and Water for South Asia.

The project would upgrade the water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services, Kohliase said. The loan is being provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Lavelhood Project. The ADB said in a press note on Saturday.

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Swan, tributaries hotbed of illegal mining in Una



DEEP NEXUS

LALIT MOHAN TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DEHRAUNSA, JULY 24 Despite the fact that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken a strict view, illegal mining is continuing in the Swan and its 66 tributaries in Una District.

In a report submitted to the monitoring committee set by the NGT to suggest measures for checking illegal mining in the river, the district administration of Una has maintained that 60 leases have been granted for mining in the Swan. These include 28 to slummers and 32 as open mining leases from where the lessee can extract the minerals and sell these in open market. Of the 60, 52 leases have been granted on private lands on the Swan riverbed and eight on government lands on the borders of Punjab and Himachal are alleging that the mining mafia is destroying their lands by mining in the middle of night. Officials blame it on undemarcated borders of both states. Una district has become the hub of illegal mining as most of the material mined from the district flows to Punjab and Haryana.

As per the mining officer Neeraj Kant, mining has been banned on the Swan riverbed till middle of September during monsoon as per the orders of the High Court. This year,



Illegal mining in progress on the banks of Swan in Una. FILE PHOTO

STAFF GROSSLY INADEQUATE

The Mining Department has one mining officer, one inspector, two assistant inspectors and eight guards. Of these, two mining guards have been deployed on the check post at Bathi. The staff is inadequate for day and night monitoring of illegal mining operations.

329 challans issued As many as five trucks, 26 tippers, 63 tractor trailers and three JCB machines have been impounded, according to SP Arjit Sen

force for illegal mining. SP Arjit Sen said the police had registered 37 cases of illegal mining this year and realised a fine of Rs 7,48,300 from the culprits. He said five trucks, 26 tippers, 63 tractor trailers and three JCB machines had been impounded.

The SP said the police had also forwarded the details of some people involved in illegal mining to the Enforcement Directorate (ED). A request has been made to the ED that an inquiry should be held into properties acquired by people involved in illegal mining.

The enormity of the illegal mining in Una can be gauged from the fact that the police have raised a special force stationed in Una under a DSP to check illegal mining. Despite all this, the illegal mining is continuing.

The Mining Department has one mining officer, one inspector, two assistant inspectors and eight guards. Of these, two mining guards have been deployed on the check post at Bathi. The staff is inadequate for day and night monitoring of illegal mining operations.

Officials also highlight lacunae in the mining Act. As per the existing Act, heavy machinery or equipment is found engaged in illegal mining, the officer can issue a challan of Rs 50,000 to the violator. If the vehicle or equipment is seized two times, challan has to be sent to the court. However, no records are being kept on the number of challans issued.

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Guv inaugurates Minjar Mela at Chowgan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DEHRAUNSA/DALHOUSIE, JULY 24

Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar today inaugurated a week-long Minjar Mela at the historic Chowgan in Chamba. He said the glorious history and rich folk traditions of the state were playing a vital role in the progress of the state. This was Arlekar's first visit to Chamba as Governor. He said the historical Minjar Mela had its own identity. Expressing happiness over the preservation and promotion of the district's rich folk art and culture and maintaining social harmony, he stressed upon the inclusion of modernity in the successful organisation of the fair. «Chamba has a rich folk culture. This culture is being preserved by the people since time immemorial. The traditional folk art and social harmony should be preserved," he said.

Arlekar also talked about famous artworks of the district—Chamba Rumal and Chamba Chappal. He said the state government was taking necessary steps to accord the status of international fair to the Minjar Mela.



Women perform a folk dance at the Minjar Mela on Sunday. PHOTO KAMALEET

The Governor inaugurated the fair by hoisting the Minjar flag amid traditional 'Kunjadi Malhaar' singing — a seasonal song of the Chamba region. He also inaugurated exhibitions organised by various departments and social organisations. Chamba Municipal Council President Neelam Nayyar presented Minjar to the Governor. Deputy Commissioner DC Rana honoured the Governor on behalf of the Minjar Mela Organising Committee. Sports competitions were also inaugurated by the Governor. Deputy Speaker Dr Hans Raj, MLA Pawan Nayyar and Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav were among those present. The Minjar which is a silk tussel worn on the costumes by men, women and children during the fair, symbolises maize and paddy shoots which can be widely seen in this region during this time of the year. A procession

5 feared dead, 2 hurt as car falls into gorge

CHAMBA, JULY 24

Five persons, including the driver of a vehicle, were feared dead and two others were injured when the Bolero in which they were travelling fell into a gorge near Bairagarh on the Chamba-Panipat road today, an official report stated.

The Tehsildar of Tissa, a police team and an ambulance rushed to the accident site and started relief and rescue operations. The report said of the seven persons travelling in the vehicle, two were injured and they had been identified as Des Raj and Chuni Lal. They were taken to the Tissa Civil Hospital from where they were referred to the Chamba medical college and hospital. Deputy Commissioner DC Rana confirmed that the injured were undergoing treatment in Chamba. He said five others were feared dead but confirmation was pending — OC

Heavy rain lashes state, 23 roads blocked

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 24
The local Met Office has issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunderstorm and lightning in low hills and mid hills on July 28 and yellow warning of heavy rains in low and mid hills on July 25, 26 and 27.

The office has also cautioned of damage to fruit plants and new plantings due to heavy rainfall tomorrow. It said supply of electricity may be affected and possibility of landslides in hilly areas cannot be ruled out in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Solan districts.

As many as 23 roads—14 in Kullu, five in Bilaspur and one each in Chamba, Kangra, Mandi and Solan were blocked for vehicular traffic due to rain. As many as 16 water supply schemes were disrupted in the state.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall lashed parts of Mandi and Kangra districts during the day. Gohar was wettest with 120 mm of rain followed by Dharamsala (71 mm), Bhabha (68 mm), Shillara (61 mm), Joesnagar (60 mm), and Sundernagar (40 mm).

Narkanda recording a low of 12.8 degree C was coldest at night while Dhulua Kuan was hottest during the day with a high of 34.4 degree C.



Tourists enjoy the misty weather at the Ridge in Shimla on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

Landslide hits Bilaspur village

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAMIRPUR, JULY 24
Heavy loss to government and private properties was reported following a landslide in a Dharti village of Bilaspur today. The loss to livestock was also reported by the District Disaster Management Authority. A cow shelter was destroyed where two buffaloes and 12 goats were buried under the debris of landslide that occurred after heavy rain in Kuh Maghwar gram panchayat in Ghumarvin subdivision in the west hours today. Apart from the cow shelter, roads leading to villages in the area were



also damaged. The road to Maghwar turned into a muddle, while a portion of another road was washed away. Ghumarvin SMT Rajeev Thakur said the cow-shelter of Sanjay Kumar of Dharti village had been damaged. He said there was a massive damage to the roads leading to the area and it was disconnected for vehicular traffic. He said an immediate relief of Rs 20,000 was given to the affected family. He said heavy machinery was pressed into service to clear the roads.

« The PWD road, which leads to Kuh Maghwar, buried under the debris from landslide.

2 men feared washed away in Parbati

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KULU, JULY 24
Two youths were feared washed away in the Parbati. They are missing since July 20.

Yesterday, a jacket having an identity card was found along the banks of the river near Parvati cafe in Chandro Nala in the Parbati Valley.

Kulsi Superintendent of Police Gurdev Sharma said Vinod Kumar and Arun Kumar, both residents of Shilila village, were returning from Chhenur Kahika on July 20 when they went missing. He said the Aadhar card of Vinod was found in the jacket along the banks of the river.

He said it was suspected that their car plunged into the river and both of them were washed away.

He said the police were investigating the matter and a search operation was underway.

Cong brainstorms for 5 hrs, Shimla meet in early Aug

'Sarkar badlo, halaat badlo' one of key poll slogans

ADITI TANDON

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

CAN'T BE COMPLACENT

« We discussed the fact that we cannot be complacent given BJP's recent return to power in UP and Uttarakhand, states not known to re-elect incumbent governments. We have to be prepared to not only preserve but also expand our vote base.

Congress leader

Sachin Pilot, state Congress chief Pratibha Singh, CLP leader Mukesh Agnihotri, Himachal Congress working presidents and AICC secretaries for the state, the meeting held at Chhattisgarh Bhawan here lasted for five hours.

Sources said the participants had decided to meet with state level leaders in Shimla to further deliberate on the roadmap. "Preliminary dates for the Shimla meeting are August 7 and 8. Bhupesh Baghel will come to Shimla for the meeting," a source said.

The Congress today also zeroed in on "Sarkar badlo, halaat badlo" as its principal election slogan in Himachal Pradesh and working on more planks for canvassing with the understanding that rising prices, shrinking job market should remain at the centre of poll planning.

Sources said the party has also finalized a firm for social media and media strategy and outreach ahead of elections in the state. On the issue of challenges, the leaders agreed that the ruling BJP would "put in everything it had" to retain power in the state, a home state of Nadda and Thakur.

« We discussed the fact that we cannot be complacent given BJP's recent return to power in UP and Uttarakhand, states not known to re-elect incumbent governments. We have to be prepared to not only preserve but also expand our vote base," a Congress leader said.

« On the AAP, the AICC leaders felt it might play a spoiler as it did in elections in other states recently. "Our political responses have to factor the political role of AAP," Congress leaders said.

281 new Covid cases in state

SHIMLA, JULY 24
As many as 281 new Covid cases were reported in the state today. The maximum of 127 cases were detected in Kangra, followed by Shimla (41), Mandi (37), Chamba (22), Solan (12), Kullu (11), Una (8), Hamirpur (7), Bilaspur and Kinnaur (6 each) and Sirmour (4) — TNS

COVID METER

Cases tested	47,66,703
Recovered	2,85,759
Active	4,053
New cases	281
Positive	2,93,969
Deaths	4,136

DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

District	+	Deaths
Bilaspur	18,618	95
Chamba	17,248	177
Hamirpur	23,991	330
Kangra	66,230	1,249
Kinnaur	4,635	41
Kullu	12,466	183
Lahaul & Spiti	3,325	18
Mandi	40,064	507
Shimla	36,984	718
Sirmour	20,346	221
Solan	31,073	336
Una	18,989	281
Total	2,93,969	4,136

ADB nod to ₹770-cr loan for potable water project

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of around Rs 770 crore to fund a safe drinking water and sanitation project in Himachal Pradesh. The loan has been provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project, the ADB said in a press note on Saturday.

It said that more than 90 per cent of the state's rural population had access to drinking water, but the water supply infrastructure was old and had deteriorated over the time, resulting in inefficient and poor service. The ADB project will connect 76,900 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 3.7 lakh residents in 10 districts.

"The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024," said Jude Kohliase, ADB Unit Head of Project Administration on Urban Development and Water for South Asia.

The project would upgrade the water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services, Kohliase said.

The Manila-headquartered funding agency said the project would improve water supply and sanitation services through, among others, the construction of 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 km of distribution pipelines.

A pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation programme would also be implemented in Sirmour district, benefiting 2.5 lakh residents and to determine replicability and guide the design of future projects, the press note said.

"To ensure efficient delivery and sustainability of services, the project would strengthen the capacity of the Jal Shakti Vibhag of Himachal Pradesh and gram panchayat village water and sanitation committees — PFI

Swan, tributaries hotbed of illegal mining in Una



LALIT MOHAN

DHARAMSALA, JULY 24

Despite the fact that the "National NGT" has taken a strict view, illegal mining is continuing in the Swan and its 60 tributaries in Una district.

In a report submitted to the monitoring committee set by the NGT to suggest measures for checking illegal mining in the river, the district administration of Una has maintained that 60 leases have been granted for mining in the Swan. These include 28 to stone crushers and 32 as open mining leases from where the lessee can extract the minerals and sell these in open market. Of the 60, 52 leases have been granted on private lands on the Swan riverbed and eight on government land.

People living at Bathri on the borders of Punjab and Himachal are alleging that the mining mafia is destroying their lands by mining in the middle of night. Officials blame it on undermanned borders of both states.



Illegal mining in progress on the banks of Swan in Una, file photo

STAFF GROSSLY INADEQUATE

« The Mining Department has one mining officer, one inspector, two assistant inspectors and eight guards.

Of these, two mining guards have been deputed on the check post at Bathri. The staff is inadequate for day and night monitoring of illegal mining operations.

329 challans have been issued against those resorting to illegal mining in the district and a fine of Rs 42,92,900 has been realised. Despite that, tractor trolleys collecting sand from the riverbeds can be seen in Santoshgarh. Sources said the local political pressure and demand for mining material for construction works were the driving

329 CHALLANS ISSUED

- « Mining has been banned on the Swan riverbed till middle of September
- « This year, 329 challans have been issued to those involved in illegal mining in the district
- « A fine of ₹42,92,900 has also been realised
- « Despite that, tractor-trailers collecting sand from the riverbeds can be seen in Santoshgarh
- « As many as five trucks, 26 tippers, 63 tractor-trolleys and three JCB machines have been impounded, according to SP Arjit Sen

force for illegal mining. SP Arjit Sen said the police had registered 97 cases in the district and a fine of Rs 42,92,900 has been realised.

« Despite that, tractor trolleys collecting sand from the riverbeds can be seen in Santoshgarh. Sources said the local political pressure and demand for mining material for construction works were the driving

Directorate (ED). A request has been made to the ED that an inquiry should be held into properties acquired by people involved in illegal mining.

The enormity of the illegal mining in Una can be gauged from the fact that the police have raised a special force stationed in Una under a DSP to check illegal mining. Despite all this, the illegal mining is continuing.

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Officials also highlight lacunae in the mining Act. As per the existing Act, if any vehicle or equipment is found engaged in illegal mining, the officer can issue a challan of Rs 50,000 to the violator. If the vehicle or equipment is seized two times, challan has to be sent to the court. However, no records are being kept on the number of challans issued.

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English	-	-	2	clerk cum typist
Physics	-	1	1	Librarian
Mathematics	1	-	2	Junior Librarian
Chemistry	-	-	1	Lab Assistant
Management	1	1	24	Lab Technician
BCA	1	1	24	Lab attendant
Data Science	-	-	5	Library attendant
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Guv inaugurates Minjar Mela at Chowgan

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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Arora also talked about famous works of the district — Chamba Ramal and Chamba Chappal. He said the state government was taking necessary steps to accord the status of international fair to the Minjar Mela



Women perform a folk dance at the Minjar Mela on Sunday. PHOTO: KAMALJEET

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Organising Committee. Sports competitions were also inaugurated by the Governor. Deputy Speaker Dr Hans Raj, MLA Pawan Nayyar and Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav were among those present.

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