

High Court allows state-level I-Day function at Barsar school for ₹5L fee

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SHIMLA, AUGUST 14 The High Court of Himachal Pradesh has directed the state government to deposit a fee of Rs 5 lakh in the students' welfare fund of Government Senior Secondary School at Barsar in Hamirpur district. A Division Bench of Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Bipin Chander Negi, as an exceptional case, allowed the use of the school playground for the Independence Day function on the payment of a fee of Rs 5 lakh. The state government had filed an application before the court for allowing the use of the playground of the school at Barsar for holding the state-level Independence Day function. The Secretary (GAD), on the behalf of the state government, had pleaded that since no other ground was available for holding the state-level Independence Day function, the principal of the school had on the request of the Hamirpur Deputy Commissioner given a no objection certificate



(NOC) on August 8. The application to allow the use of the school ground was filed, as the court had on December 11, 2017, passed an order prohibiting any activity other than educational and the one connected with the affairs of the institution on the campus, be it primary, secondary, higher secondary school or college. The responsibility to ensure compliance with the

order was fixed on the principal concerned. The court observed that under such circumstances, apparently, the state government was well aware of the situation but never took the court into confidence and the application before the court was filed only after getting an NOC from the school principal. "We are not inclined as such to allow the application

but we have been informed that some arrangements have already been made, including printing and distribution of cards, and the spade work has been done," the court observed. The court said that keeping in view that it was the Independence Day function, it would not be fair for the court at this stage to disrupt the solemn ceremony. "The coun-

EXCEPTIONAL CASE

- The High Court has allowed the state government to hold the event as an exceptional case.
- The playground of Government Senior Secondary School, Barsar, will be used for the event.
- The government will have to deposit ₹5 lakh in the school's students' welfare fund.
- The court said the government approached it only after obtaining the school principal's NOC.
- A 2017 order prohibited non-educational activities in schools.

<< Students practise at the ground in Government Senior Secondary School, Barsar.

sel for the state relied upon an earlier permission granted in August 2025 to celebrate Independence Day at Sark-ahat. After going through the order, we find that at that time, the school was to remain closed from August 15 to 17 and there were no academic activities. Also, the permission had been sought well in advance and not at the last moment as a fait accompli."

Rainfall may disrupt events in some dists

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SHIMLA, AUGUST 14 Independence Day functions in some districts can be disrupted as the Weather Department has issued a yellow alert for heavy rain at isolated places in Mandi, Sirmaur, Kangra and Bilaspur. The weather in the other eight districts, in all probability, will stay clear. On August 17 onwards, the precipitation is likely to get intense, with the department issuing an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Mandi and Sirmaur districts. For August 18, the department has issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in Kangra and Sirmaur districts. Over the past 24 hours, light to moderate rain was recorded at a few places and heavy rain at isolated places. The maximum rain was observed in Kangra, Bilaspur and Mandi districts. At present, 114 roads are blocked in the state. Besides, 10 power distribution transformers and water supply scheme are disrupted.

IGP Dullar among 4 honoured with President's medal

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SHIMLA, AUGUST 14 Four police personnel from Himachal, including Inspector General of Police (IGP) Abhishek Dullar, have been honoured with the distinguished President's Police Medal on the occasion of Independence Day. Dullar has been honoured with the President's Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM). Besides, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Gurdev Chand Sharma has been honoured with the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM). The other two recipients of the prestigious honour are Inspector Amar Singh (President's Medal for Meritorious Service) and ASI Jagbir Singh (President's Medal for Meritorious Service). These national honours recognise exemplary service, unwa-



vering dedication and outstanding professionalism in the line of duty. "The recognition reflects their commitment to the highest standards of policing and public service. The Himachal Police extend their heartiest congratulations to all the awardees and salute their dedicated service to the nation," said DGP Ashok Tiwari.



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu flags of an electric bus in Hamirpur on Friday.

Sukhu flags off 35 electric buses, inaugurates labs

HAMIRPUR, AUGUST 14 Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu flagged off 35 electric buses and inaugurated a Seed Replacement Technology (SRT) Lab and a Computer-Based Test (CBT) Lab in Hamirpur on Friday. The SRT Lab has been established at a cost of Rs 8.64 crore while the CBT Lab has been built at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore. Both laboratories have been set up at the office complex of the Deputy Director of Agriculture. He said that the laboratories would provide facilities for advanced agricultural

research, quality seed processing and distribution, helping boost crop yields and promote crop diversification initiatives in the district. He also laid the foundation stone of a girls' hostel at Degree College, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 9 crore. Under the Phase-II of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project, the Chief Minister also inaugurated several lift irrigation schemes constructed at a total cost of Rs 3.05 crore — Basol Lift Irrigation Scheme in Nadaun (Rs 57 lakh), Jasoh Lift Irri-

gation Scheme (Rs 39 lakh), Khatrod Lift Irrigation Scheme (Rs 47 lakh), Gharat Lift Irrigation Scheme in Sujanpur (Rs 43 lakh), Dakhol Lift Irrigation Scheme in Hamirpur (Rs 46 lakh) and Thaon Lift Irrigation Scheme in Barsar. The schemes will benefit around 320 farmer families. The Chief Minister also inaugurated, through the virtual mode, a hostel at Sainik School, Sujanpur Tira, constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crore. Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar and MLA Suresh Kumar were present. — OC

CM: State's first science college, AIIMS-level Ayurvedic institute to be set up in Hamirpur

DINESH KANWAR

HAMIRPUR, AUGUST 14 The first science college of the state will be set up in Hamirpur at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu while speaking at the annual function of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose Government Post-graduate Degree College in the district on Friday. He added that 80 kanals had been identified for the college and Rs 20 crore had been released for the project. He also announced that an Allied and Healthcare College and an AIIMS-level Ayurvedic institute would be established on 74 acres. The Chief Minister said that to ensure qualitative improvement in the education and health sectors were the priorities of the state government. He added that diagnostic facilities were being strengthened in health institutions so that diseases could be detected at an early stage. Robotic surgery had been introduced in the state that costs Rs 30,000 to patients and the state government was providing a subsidy of Rs 90,000. Besides, 3-Tesla MRI machines were being installed in medical col-



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu at the annual function of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose Government PG Degree College, Hamirpur.

leges to facilitate more accurate diagnosis of diseases, he asserted. He said that Kangra had been accorded the status of the 'Tourism Capital of the State' while Hamirpur would emerge as the 'Education Capital' of Himachal Pradesh. He added that students from the district had brought laurels in the country. Sukhu said that the government had started 156 CBSE schools to provide quality education near vil-

lages and 24,000 students had enrolled in these institutions so far. He added that Rs 80 crore had been released for the smooth functioning and infrastructure development in these schools. New courses had been introduced and more than 1,000 youths had been provided jobs on compassionate grounds in the state, he claimed. He said that the government was poised to provide employment to the youth, with

recruitment examinations being conducted through the Rajaya Chayan Ayog and the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission. Sukhu added that the government had rejected the earlier agreement on the 422 MW Kishau multipurpose project and with the new agreement, Himachal would receive around Rs 600 crore in annual revenue on investment. Sunil Sharma Bittu, Political Adviser to the Chief

Minister, said that a new initiative to establish CBSE schools in the state had been launched due to Sukhu's efforts. He added that robotic surgery had also been introduced in Himachal Pradesh and historic work had been done in the education and health sectors. He condemned the alleged lathi-charge on the protesting youths in New Delhi and said that the Congress would always stand with students.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Assets(s) / Dues / Reserve Price / E-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) & Mortgagor(s)	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price	Status of Possession	Property Inspection Date & Time	Description of the Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any
				EMD Bid Increase Amount			
1.	Borrower(s):- M/s Rai Traders, having its Registered Address:- Plot No. 386, Industrial Area, Phase 9, Mohali SAS Nagar, Punjab and through its Partners - Mr. Gurcharan Singh Dadahoor S/o Bachan Singh and Mr. Paramvir Singh Rai S/o Mr. Gurcharan Singh Dadahoor, both R/o H. No. 3144, Sector 21-D, Chandigarh -160022.	Rs. 1,50,05,392.33 and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment, less subsequent credit received amounting to Rs. 48,00,000/- after issuance of 13(2) Demand Notice Dated 31.07.2025 .	23.09.2026 from 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.	Rs. 25,40,00,000/- Rs. 25,40,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION OF BANK	31.08.2026 onwards 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M. (With prior appointment only)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of equitable mortgage of House No. 3144, Sector 21-D, Chandigarh measuring Two Kanals, RP No. 2383, on Old Plot No. 36, Street D, UT Chandigarh in the name of Shri. Gurcharan Singh S/o Bachan Singh registered vide Serial No. 1331, Book No. 1, Vol No. 93, Dated 19th Sept 1994. Banknet Property ID: BARB6045202600001
2.	Borrower(s):- M/s Standard Bharat Gas having its registered address Plot No. 558, Khasra No. 223(0-12), Village Kajheri, Sector 52, Chandigarh and through its Proprietor - Mrs. Suman Saini W/o Mr. Harmanpreet Singh, R/o H. No. 442, Sector 65, Phase 11, Mohali, SAS Nagar, Punjab - 160062 and Guarantor(s):- Mr. Gurcharan Singh Dadahoor S/o Bachan Singh and Mr. Paramvir Singh Rai S/o Mr. Gurcharan Singh Dadahoor, both R/o H. No. 3144, Sector 21-D, Chandigarh -160022.	Rs. 81,99,925.88 and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment, less subsequent credit received amounting to Rs. 17,94,311.54 after issuance of 13(2) Demand Notice Dated 26.08.2025 .					

NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON AND CONTACT NUMBER: MS. AMANPREET KAUR, CHIEF MANAGER, M: 8558846401

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD: ON OR BEFORE THE E-AUCTION DATE AND TIME
DATE AND TIME OF COMMENCEMENT OF E-AUCTION: 23.09.2026 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 03:00 P.M.
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State's apple production likely to fall by up to 50%, good prices offer some relief

SUBHASH RAJTA

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SHIMLA, AUGUST 14 Apple production in Himachal is likely to fall by 40 per cent to 50 per cent this year as compared with last year. The state produced around 3.5 crore apple boxes last year. While the Department of Horticulture estimates the produce to be around 2 crore boxes this year, many growers feel the production can be much lower. "Apple arrivals so far are just 50 per cent of the quantity marketed during the corresponding period last year," said Satish Sharma, Director, Department of Horticulture. The apple arrivals so far are broadly in line with the department's estimate of a 40 per cent to 50 per cent drop in production this year.

Such a drastic fall in the overall production can cause big losses to the growers. However, consistently good market rates since the season started have

The state produced around 3.5 crore apple boxes last year. FILE

offset the losses to some extent for the apple growers in low and mid-elevation areas. Harvesting in higher elevations is yet to begin. "The average rates have been between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,500 per box," said Lokinder Bisht, a grower of Rohru. The premium-quality apple has been fetching Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,500 per box. "The crop is quite

poor this time, but good prices have cushioned the losses due to low production," said Bisht. Along with open markets, private players procuring fruit directly from growers are also offering good prices. A big firm like Reliance and some small players are offering prices in the range of Rs 130 to Rs 145 per kg to the growers. "Last year, we

opened our prices at Rs 92 per kg. This time, we are offering Rs 130 per kg as the produce is much less," said the owner of a small procurement firm in Rohru. Reliance, on the other hand, is offering Rs 145 per kg for the best-quality apple. The private companies buying apple at present sell the fruit to consumers without storing it. Private players like Adani Agri Fresh, which stores and sells apple after the season is over, will start procurement shortly. The growers hope the prevailing high prices will prompt private players like Adani Agri Fresh to offer good prices. According to sources, Adani Agri Fresh is likely to delay procurement this season. "The kind of apple the company buys for storage isn't ready yet. In all probability, the company will start procurement later than usual," the source said. Over the past years, the company started procurement by August 25.