



# The Newz Radar

Bring parents along for protest, warn of fast unto death if results not declared early

## JOA-IT job aspirants storm Sectt as CM holds cabinet meet inside

**TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**SHIMLA:** Aspirants of the Junior Office Assistant (JOA)-IT Post Code 817 staged a protest outside the Shimla Secretariat on Friday (February 9, 2024), decrying the prolonged delay in the declaration of recruitment examination results. The protesters, comprising candidates and their parents, appealed to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to expedite the release of the results, warning of an indefinite fast unto death if their demands were not met. The protest was staged at a time when the Chief Minister was chairing a cabinet meeting inside.



The aspirants lamented the protracted recruitment process, spanning nearly five years, during which the final results were yet to be declared. Despite a favourable court ruling following their legal battle that reached the Supreme Court, the government has failed to act on the matter, leaving the candidates and their families in a state of limbo, said an aspirant.

Expressing their frustration, the candidates recounted the arduous journey they have undertaken,

beseeking the government for justice and closure. They underscored the mental anguish endured by their families throughout the protracted ordeal, emphasising the urgency of resolving the matter without further delay.

One parent, reflecting on the gravity of the situation, remarked, "Today, along with the children, the parents also reached Shimla Secretariat, expressing dismay at the unprecedented delay in the announcement of recruitment results."

■ Another parent expressed indignation, stating, "We have been compelled to take to the streets. Our children have toiled diligently for years, only to confront bureaucratic apathy and governmental indifference."

Before coming to power, the Congress made hefty claims. But now it is making fun of the unemployed, which will not be tolerated. The mockery of the unemployed, perpetrated by those in power, is intolerable."

## Palampur lawyer accuses SHO of slapping him, using caste slurs

**PRATIMA RANA | TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**PALAMPUR:** A tension involving lawyers and police has erupted in Palampur where lawyer Pinku Kumar has alleged that he was insulted with caste-related slurs and physically assaulted by Station House Officer (SHO) Surinder Thakur at the Palampur police station. Speaking to the media at the Mini Secretariat here, Pinku Kumar recounted his ordeal, stating that he had visited the Palampur police station to get a challan issued under the Motor Vehicles Act disposed of. However, he said he faced a delay due to server connectivity issues and was waiting outside the premises.

- In contrast, SHO Surinder Thakur has denied the allegations levelled against him. He contended that Pinku was attempting to provide a mobile phone to the accused in the lock-up, prompting him to intervene. Surinder Thakur refuted using any caste-related language and denies any physical altercation.
- The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Palampur, has yet to make an official statement regarding the allegations.



Pinku claimed that during the time an accused in some case who was in police custody asked him to facilitate a conversation

between the latter's lawyer through his mobile phone, which he did but only after seeking permission from a police official

standing nearby. Pinku claimed the conversation had just ended when Station House Officer Surinder Thakur arrived at the police station and lashed out at him. "Hearing our voice, another policeman came out and told the SHO that I am only a challan lawyer. He told me that leave aside my advocacy, I won't even be allowed to graze goats. He insulted me with caste-based slurs. Both said my antecedents verified. The SHO then slapped me," he said.

Pinku has demanded from the Palampur DSP to register an FIR against the SHO and the policeman who insulted and physically assaulted him and take strictest-possible action against them.

## Dharampur revenue officer suspended in bribery case

**TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**Mandi:** A revenue officer, in the Dharampur sub-division of the Mandi district, was suspended after he was found prima facie guilty of seeking a bribe for processing a claim for disaster relief. Mandi Deputy Commissioner Apurva Devgan had directed Dharampur SDM Rajendra Gautam to investigate and the investigation report found the revenue officer guilty.

On Thursday night, a team from the vigilance department had reached Dharampur and registered a case against the accused revenue officer. The investigating officer has also recorded statements from the complainant and the affected woman.

An audio conversation between the complainant woman and the revenue officer went viral, exposing the bribery demand from Geeta Devi, a resident of Kohan in Sajyopipalu tehsil of Dharampur. She had filed a complaint about the incident to the CM resolution service on January 22, 2024. After the audio conversation between the disaster-affected woman and the local revenue officer went viral, the vigilance team also became active, and on Thursday, they contacted the complainant to investigate the facts.







*Help Needy, Nail Greedy...*

Names of ex-CM Jai Ram, actress Kangana, Kargil hero Khushal doing rounds

## Mandi among 150 seats where BJP may announce candidates early

**MUNISH SOOD | TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**MANDI:** The BJP can announce the tickets for the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh ahead of time and the plan to select candidate early is said to be underway. There's a buzz among ticket aspirants, the delay learnt to be only in Delhi. There are around 150 Lok Sabha seats where the BJP is likely to announce candidates in the coming days. These are the seats where the BJP had faced defeat. Therefore, the party has decided to lock horns here well before time.



■ BJP leader Ajay Rana has been struggling for a long time for the ticket. This time too, Ajay Rana is in the race again. Ashray Sharma, who unsuccessfully contested from the seat earlier on the Congress ticket, is also making efforts for the BJP ticket. Ashray has also met Nadda and Jai Ram. Along with them, former MP Maheshwar Singh is also hopeful of the ticket. But looking at his age, the party can make a decision. Actress Kangana Ranaut has also expressed her desire to contest elections, but the BJP may not field her from Himachal Pradesh. Besides, former Minister Govind Singh Thakur and BJP state secretary Bihari Lal Sharma's names are also under discussion.

There's also a discussion across the country regarding the Mandi parliamentary seat, the only one held by the Congress in Himachal Pradesh. Although it was previously with the BJP, it went to Congress after the byelection in 2021. Sources said discussions are ongoing about announcing the candidates for the Mandi seat ahead of schedule. The BJP's strategy is to allow candidates where the party lost extra time to connect with the voters.

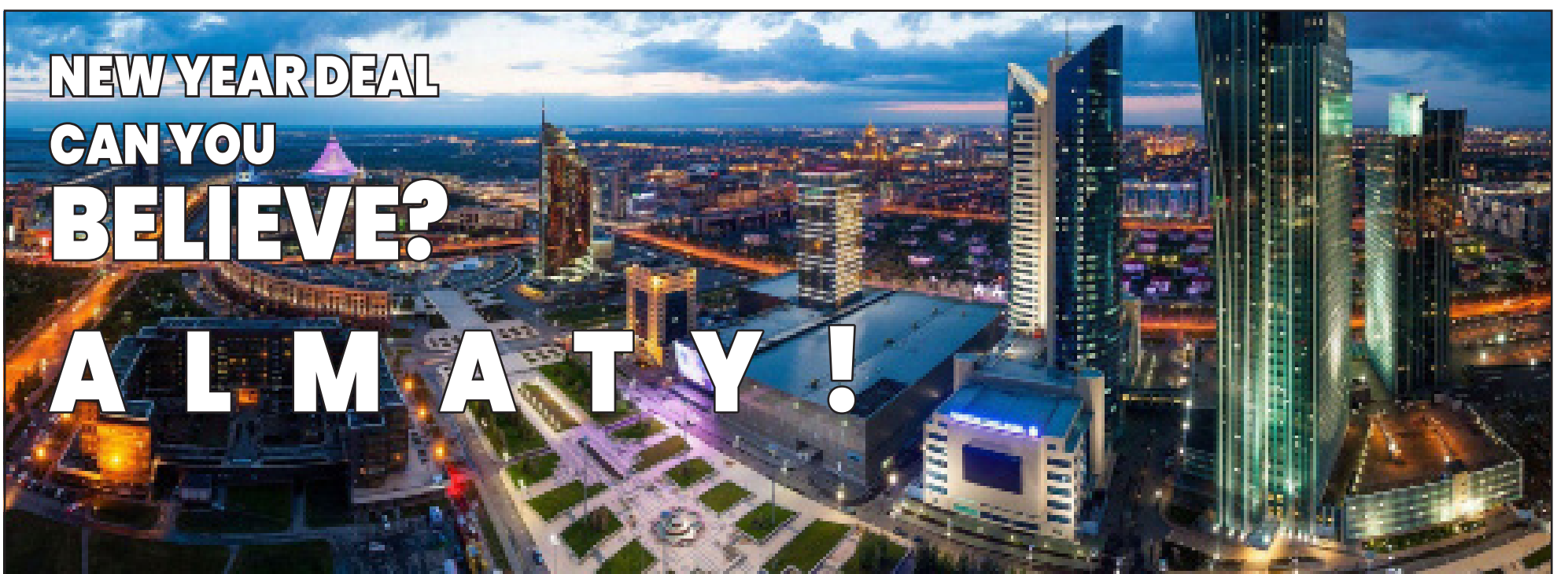
A long list of aspirants for the BJP ticket from Mandi parliamentary seat is emerging. However, former Chief Minister and Opposition leader Jai Ram Thakur's name is foremost. However, Jai Ram has already stated that he won't contest the elections.

Apart from him, the names of former BJP candidate Brig Khushal Thakur (retd), Manali Municipal Council chairman Chaman Kapoor, BJP leader Ajay Rana and Ashray

Sharma are being discussed. A Kargil hero, Brigadier Khushal has previously on the BJP ticket in the byelection and lost to Pratibha Singh.

Chaman Kapoor has a good hold

in Mandi and Kullu districts because Mandi is his birthplace and Kullu district is his workplace. He also has good relations with Jagat Prakash Nadda and Jai Ram Thakur.



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# 'Transfer rider' for 200 HP teachers visiting Singapore on exposure trip

**TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**SHIMLA:** The Himachal Pradesh government is all set to send 200 teachers to Singapore on an exposure visit to facilitate quality education. The government will bear entire expenses of the trip and the first batch of teachers will leave between February 20 and 25. The second batch will be sent after the first one is back. For the first time, the government is sending staff teaching from Class I to XII in government schools of the state abroad. Teachers have been selected for the expedition and most of the formalities for their going abroad have also been completed. They are now only awaiting visa.



The 100 teachers who get their visas first will be sent first to Singapore. Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), these teachers will be taken on visits to various educational institutions, including Singapore University. During their trip, they would have an interaction with the Singaporean teachers and see how children there are taught. Principals and headmasters will learn about leadership roles while teachers will learn techniques to teach children. There, however, is a rider attached to the trip. The teachers will be

■ **Won't be able to hesitate if shifted to new schools of excellence being established by government**

■ **In the list of 200 teachers, maximum 50 are JBT (junior basic teacher), head teacher and centre head teacher. Similarly, there are 25 TGT (Trained graduate teacher), 25 C&V (classical and vernacular), 30 PGT, 20 headmaster, 45 principal and five DPE. Teachers have been selected on the basis of their educational qualification and experience. The criteria were already set for this.**

transferred to other schools after returning from the exposure visit to Singapore. An assent towards this has already been taken in writing from all the 200 teachers, resulting which they won't be able to hesitate in their transfers. The state government has been opening new excellence schools and these teachers may be posted there.

## Transform

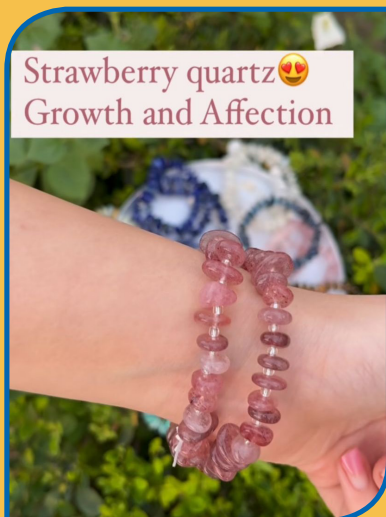
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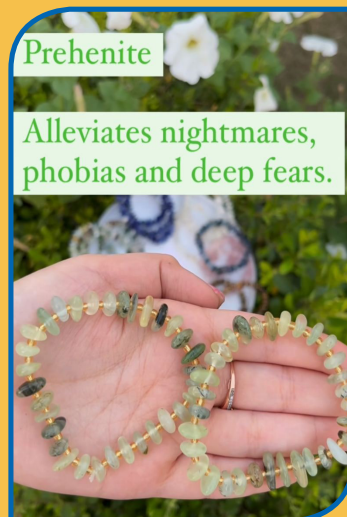
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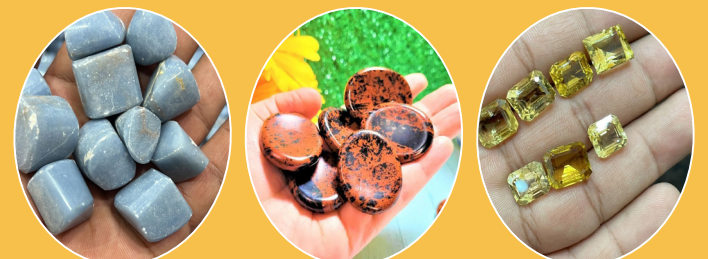
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*Help Needy, Nail Greedy...*

# Frequent, long power cuts deepen winter woes in Mandi

**MUNISH SOOD | TNR NEWS NETWORK**

**MANDI:** The city of Mandi has endured harsh cold spells and plummeting temperatures over the past few months and the sufferings of the people have been compounded by erratic power outages plaguing the area. The residents of Mandi and its surrounding areas express frustration over the unpredictable power supply, enduring up to five to seven hours of blackouts daily. "It's become routine over the past month," remarked Jagesh Vaidya, a local resident, highlighting the daily struggle with power shortages.

- Neeraj Handa, a social worker and retired engineer, attributed the frequent outages to increased household electricity demand in recent years, suggesting the installation of separate transformers to alleviate the strain.
- Rajesh Kumar Kaundal, XEN of the Electricity Board, attributed recent

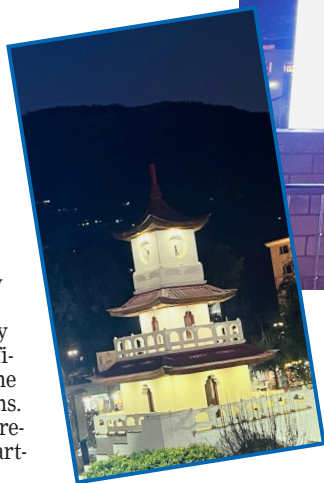
interruptions to a failure in the 132 KV line at Bijni from the Kangoo substation, affecting power supply to various areas of Mandi. A retired government official expressed dismay over the lack of strong leadership in addressing the ongoing power crisis, leaving accountability to chance.

On February 9, a significant portion of the town lost power at 7.30 am, causing discomfort, particularly for schoolchildren in the chilly winter weather. Power was finally restored after noon, but the prolonged cuts have disrupted students' exam preparations, with impending examinations scheduled for next week.

Residents of Khaliar, Bhuili, Purani Mandi, Saulikhad, Thaneda Mohalla, Talyar, Jail Road, Sila Kipad, Paddal and Tarna Mohalla voiced their hardships due to unreliable power supply, threatening to withhold pay-

ment until the government ensures consistent electricity provision.

Locals lament the lack of satisfactory explanations from electricity department officials regarding the power disruptions. Gopal Sharma recalled the depart-



ment's initial "maintenance" power cuts before winter, now questioning their effectiveness as outages persist.

The hotel industry is

particularly hard-hit by frequent power failures, disrupting operations and inconveniencing guests. Meanwhile, other industries suffer significant losses due to the recent instability in power supply.

Ankush Sood, a hotelier, stressed the need for thorough investigations into the root causes of these failures, citing concerns over subpar equipment supplied by contractors billing for premium-grade materials.

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