



Dharamshala's Zonal Hospital lacks basic facilities

By Umang Arora

Dharamshala: Anjali*, a student of Central University of Himachal Pradesh, had fallen ill suddenly in the middle of the night. Her friends called every number possible, from that of Dharamshala Zonal hospital to 108, the Emergency Response Number. But there was no response on the other side of the phone. At last, they called Dharamshala Police Station and asked them to help their friend.

"Anjali had an epilepsy attack at midnight. She was with us, at our room. We had to take her to the hospital", said Ajay, her friend. They frantically kept trying emergency numbers but found no response except from police.

Getting reliable and emergency medical help at Dharamshala is not easy, especially at odd hours. The Zonal Hospital, despite being the only major medical facility available for more than a dozen villages around Dharamshala, is not in a good shape. Even basic services are lacking. Patients visiting here, have to go through various challenges to get proper treatment.

"We're here since 8am and the doctor hasn't arrived yet." said the member of a family that came from Bandi, a small village in Kangra. Their son was suffering from high fever and even after waiting for 5 hours, there was no doctor to examine him at the Emergency ward. Members of another family from Gharoh, a village near Dharamshala, said they also faced the same situation.

The winter has arrived in the city and



Main Block of the Zonal Hospital at Dharamshala.

there's a hike in the number of patients. However, the doctors wouldn't arrive in the Emergency section till noon. The help desk is there but there's no one to guide the patients. The washrooms aren't properly maintained with some of them having no functioning lights.

It is not that the medical staff here does not want to take care of the patients. They also face issues. "The call on 108 goes to the Solan first, and then the ambulance is provided to the patient. Often, this causes delay, especially during odd hours", said a hospital staff. "We're trying our best to satisfy the patients with whatever resources available," she said.

The Zonal Hospital is the only secondary care multispecialty hospital in the Dharmshala sub division in Kangra district. It is equipped with a 300 bedded in-patient ward and a total of 90 staff. According to sources, there's a shortage of doctors in the Zonal hospital as of now. Most of the patients are being referred to Tanda Medical Col-

lege due to this. Randeep Singh Rana, a labourer, hailing from Dari, had fallen sick in the middle of the day. His family took him to the hospital. "The doctor didn't even touch him. Such was his carelessness. We were not satisfied by the services of the hospital and had to take him to a private doctor." said his uncle.

People are just not satisfied by the hospital's services. Many complained that the hospital staff was very rude towards the patients and their families. Patients are forced to resort to continuously plead the emergency staff to get the essential medical help here.

For Anjali's friends, even getting police help to take her to hospital was not easy. The police tried to put their request off by asking them to wait till morning. "We even had to warn them that if something happens to Anjali, they'll be responsible", said Ajay. "Then only they came with a vehicle to help us", said he. (*Name changed on request for privacy)

University will close for Winter break on Dec 14



Dharamshala: The end term examinations in the Monsoon Session at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh will start from Monday, 3rd December onwards. According to the officials with the Office of the Controller of Examinations, the exams will finish by Friday, 14th December.

After the exams, the university will close for winter vacations. The Spring Semester will start from 15th January 2019 onwards, informed University authorities.



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Suraj's music tales: Me, my guitar and the Israeli friends



Yaniv performing at an event.

By Sayed Adi Shah Ashraf

Dharamshala: With stoopy shoulders and a child-like grin, Suraj Thapa is like any other vendor in Mcleodganj who sells curios to tourists. He owns a small music store and in the day to day grind of running a store, would sing for himself in the free time. What makes him a tad different from other vendors are his dreams. He wants to buy an electric guitar and become a singer.

Suraj is naturally shy. He pauses for a second when he talks about his dream. But he has to help out his family first. "Guitar or no guitar, I love my family and



Suraj(second from left) with his friends.

I want them to share what I can earn from this small shop", he says. "But someday, I will become a singer and will lead my music band. That's for sure", tells Suraj as he prepares to close down the shop for the day.

Pursuing the dream full time is not an option available to him. Suraj is the only earning member in the family. His father, who owned the shop, passed away when Suraj was around 6 years old.

His electric guitar dream stayed a dream until he happened to cross paths with a couple of music loving Israelites.

On Off-days, Suraj also juggles the hat of the local tourist guide, especially for foreign tourists interested in exploring Dharamkot. Being a local boy from Dharamkot, he knows the hillocks like the back of his palm. That's how he met Yaniv, Julia, and Gilhi hailing from Tel Aviv, spending their vacation in Dharamkot.

During the sight-seeing trips, Yaniv learned about Suraj's 'electric guitar situation'. Though an engineer by profession, Yaniv writes songs and performs occasionally. The group then decided to organize shows to raise funds for Suraj.

Days passed and then they held their first fundraising performance, 'Once in a Nature' at a cafe in Dharamkot. Suraj joined as the guitarist, Yugive from Israel as the drummer, Buzzy and Rifca also from Israel as singers accompanied by Frankie from Chandigarh. Around 100 people attended the show and they managed to collect Rs 3000.

"We were so much inspired by the response to 'Once in a Nature'. We needed to hold more performances to meet our target", says Yaniv. The price range for an electric guitar starts from

around ten thousand Rupees in the Indian market.

After 3 days, they managed their second show, 'Jungle Calling'. But it was not a cakewalk. Only 40 people attended the show. The event failed to raise even Rs 1000. But they didn't lose their hope and started to prepare for a third show.

In a week, they held the third show at Welcome Cafe in upper Bhagsu. Some 200 people including locals and foreigners attended it. "Dharamkot is a kind of hub for Israelis, so we obviously expected them as audience. But even local people joined the show. That was inspiring", says Yaniv. They performed special Hindi songs for the local audience.

The event was a success and the group was able to raise Rs 5000. Yaniv collected the funds bought an electric guitar for Suraj.

Suraj is in high spirits with his guitar now. He believes that it was music which helped him find a friend like Yaniv across geographical and cultural barriers and to fulfill his guitar dream too.

उन्नति के पथ पर अग्रसर केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों को है बेहतर सुविधाओं की दरकार



केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय धौलाधार परिसर - I

द्वारा स्वाति ठाकुर

धर्मशाला: शिक्षा के सर्वोच्च मंदिर एक विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ना हर विद्यार्थी का सपना होता है। धर्मशाला स्थित केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ने की चाह रखने वाला प्रत्येक विद्यार्थी भी इसी आस के साथ विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश लेता है। हिमालय की गोद में स्थित हिमाचल प्रदेश केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय में देश के अलग-अलग राज्यों से आने वाले विद्यार्थी यहाँ इस उम्मीद के साथ प्रवेश लेते हैं कि उन्हें हिमाचल प्रदेश के शांत एवं मनोरम वातावरण में उच्च शिक्षा ग्रहण करने का अवसर मिलेगा।

अपने अस्तित्व में आने के कुछ ही वर्षों में हिमाचल प्रदेश केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय ने अपने शिक्षकों एवं छात्रों के सहयोग से शिक्षा एवं शोध के क्षेत्र में काफी अच्छा योगदान दिया है। यहाँ प्रवेश शुल्क भी अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों के मुकाबले काफी कम है। इन्हीं कारणों से यहाँ देश के कई राज्यों के छात्र-छात्राएँ शिक्षा ग्रहण करने के लिए उत्सुक रहते हैं। विश्वविद्यालय कई विषम परिस्थितियों में कार्य करते हुए भी उन्नति के पथ पर अग्रसर है। यहाँ के शिक्षक, विद्यार्थी तथा अन्य कर्मचारी तमाम सुविधाओं के अभाव में भी अपने कर्तव्यों का निस्तारण पूर्ण निष्ठा एवं इमानदारी के साथ कर रहे हैं।

यहाँ पढ़ने वाले छात्रों को विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन सभी मूलभूत सुविधाएँ प्रदान करवाने के लिए निरंतर प्रयासरत है और पिछले वर्षों में छात्र हित में अनेक कदम उठाये भी गए हैं। परन्तु अभी भी विद्यार्थी कई मूलभूत सुविधाओं से वंचित हैं। उदहारण के लिए

केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय में शिक्षा ग्रहण करने आए विद्यार्थी छात्रावास, स्थायी परिसर, कैंटीन, एलसीडी प्रोजेक्टर और स्थायी पुस्तकालय जैसी मूलभूत सुविधाओं के अभाव में अपनी क्षमताओं का पूर्ण उपयोग करने में स्वयं को असमर्थ पा रहे हैं।

केंद्रीय विवि के नए सत्र में जब छात्र प्रवेश लेते हैं तो इन मूलभूत सुविधाओं की अनुपलब्धता उन्हें थोड़ा निराश करती है। विवि छात्रों से बातचीत के दौरान उन्होंने बताया कि वे छात्र यूपी, बिहार, झारखंड, पंजाब, दिल्ली, आदि राज्यों से यहाँ पढ़ने आए हैं। पंजाब से आई उमंग अरोड़ा का कहना है कि पुस्तकालय में किताबों की संख्या सीमित है जिसके कारण कई किताबें बाहर की दुकान से खरीदनी पड़ती हैं जो कि एक सामान्य छात्र के लिए काफी मुश्किल है।

वहीं झारखंड से आए अजय का कहना था कि, "हॉस्टल न मिलने के कारण उन्हें शुरुआत में काफी दिक्कत आई।" इतना ही नहीं केंद्रीय विवि धर्मशाला के कैंपस में एक भी कैंटीन नहीं है जिसके कारण छात्रों को सारा दिन भूखा ही रहना पड़ता है।

पुरुष छात्रावास में रहने वाले हर्षिल ठाकुर का कहना है कि छात्रावास के परिसर से अधिक दूरी पर होने से छात्रों को काफी असुविधा होती है। दिल्ली से आई सुजाता गौतम ने बताया कि परिसर में शुद्ध पेयजल की भी उचित व्यवस्था नहीं है, सैकड़ों विद्यार्थियों के लिए एक ही कूलर है और परिसर में छात्रों के बैठने के लिए कॉमन रूम की व्यवस्था भी नहीं है। हालाँकि इन असुविधाओं बावजूद भी दूर-दूर से आए छात्र यहाँ मन लगाकर पढ़ते हैं और काफी कुछ सीखते हैं।

What winds the Dharamshala commuters most?

By Shalini Thakur

Dharamshala: "I think public transport here in Dharamshala is painful. Why would you get on a Bus that doesn't leave to wherever you want it to head to, doesn't start wherever you want it to start from, and doesn't stop at where you want it to stop?" Says Preshita Thakur, a daily commuting student at CUHP, who has to travel from Gahlian, a small village near Ranital in Kangra.



Taxis parked in a taxi stand in Dharamshala.

There are 3906 villages in Kangra, most of which do not have proper bus services. Many villages have just a couple of buses plying to them daily. On days when Buses come to a halt unexpectedly, due to bad weather or some other uncertain circumstances, people in these villages and students suffer. Other modes of public transport are not affordable for most.

"Buses are our principal mode of public transport to nearby places", says Kuldeep Chand(64), an old man who lives in Dari in the outskirts of Dharamshala with his family. However, bus rides are not always a pleasant experience for him. Bus drivers and conductors often behave rudely or use abusive languages, complaints Kuldeep. Elderly people like Kuldeep, who suffer from Arthritis and other ailments, finds it difficult to enter and exit a vehicle. "One day when I pleaded to a conductor to give some extra time to get down from the bus, he shouted at me", says Kuldeep.

"The day I was about to hire a taxi to Indrunag, the taxi driver pitched a price of 300 Rupees. I was totally, shocked," says Umang Arora who hails from Jalandhar, but presently

stays in Dharamshala for her studies. Umang complains that she has come across several taxi drivers in Dharamshala who demand exorbitant charges from their passengers.

However, taxi drivers in Dharamshala have their own woes to deal with. The daily rise in fuel prices has made a dent to their daily earnings. "It is difficult if the taxi is your only source of income" Kamlesh Kumar explains. Kamlesh Kumar is a local taxi driver in Dharamshala, who lives with his family in Garoh, a village nearby. He says it is a hard task to maintain a taxi in Dharamshala. "Honestly, the petrol prices affect us very much. Servicing and repairing the vehicle from time to time also affects us and it becomes very difficult to survive when you are the only source of income in your family," says Kamlesh.

People like Umang, who are from cities where app-based taxi services are ubiquitous, find their absence in Dharamshala bizarre. "App based taxis back home were very handy as they can be availed at any time, at any route based on our convenience. Drivers cannot demand excessive by the drivers too", she adds.

The Millennial Way



Representational Image

By Ajay Kumar

Working a single, 9 to 5 job and building up a career along was the norm of the day. That is now a thing of the past. Millennials have begun creating their own definition of work life. They love juggling multiple jobs across different fields.

Manpreet Kaur, (24) from Bhatinda, Punjab, has tried being a salaried employee and a freelancer juggling multiple projects. She works as the Head of Marketing Operations at Brijraj Fashion in New Delhi. But she also works part-time as a content creator, editor and a digital marketing consultant and enjoys it more.

She finds social media and affiliation marketing as fruitful avenues of revenue generation. "There's a huge

scope. You can make good money if you are good at the job", she said.

Social Media provides a great platform for them, by bringing people closer and by opening up new opportunities. But make no mistake, it does not mean that you can just make some quick buck here. "Digital marketing is much more complicated than posting social media content. People have to understand that before trying to pursue this as a career. It is a job that changes every day and you have to stay on track or you lose," cautions Manpreet.

What, then, is their motivation for taking up various projects? "It's definitely the money because I like to be independent. The current economic situation across the country makes it little hard on everyone's pocket and part time opportunities help you as a cushion in crisis." Says Arun Kumar, who works in the HR sector, writes for a website and dabbles in ad films.

For some, a full time job is not a reason for dropping off their passions in life. So they juggle such roles in their free time. Ankur Chakravarty is a Corporate Communication professional with a renowned healthcare company in Ranchi. But at his heart, he is a hardcore film enthusiast and film

maker. So he nurtures his passion for filmmaking whenever the full time job throws up an off.

"I am an Independent Filmmaker and still pursue it actively despite my fulltime job. I have been associated with Prasar Bharati and academic circles as part of it," says he.

But how do you manage such an 'unstable' and 'insecure' work life? It may appear 'foolish' in the older generation's idea of work life. But the millennials call it a 'professional approach', where you are more independent, can do things which you enjoy and get paid for that.

The basic prerequisite is the ability to prioritize things, says Rupesh Sahu (25), from Ranchi who juggled many jobs and presently working as a journalist. Before this, he worked as a call center executive, video editor and a blogger. For him, full time jobs take away all the precious time in your life with their rigid working hours. "I am that guy who always races to finish the assigned work as early as possible so that I can have some quality time myself. That's why I stick with part time assignments. They save time, make me feel independent and pay too", says he.

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