

WHAT'S ON

CHANDIGARH

THEATRE FEST:

TFT Winter Theatre Fest - Screening of short films 'Ramleela' and 'Wo log'; Navrang Theatre: Bal Bhavan; 6.30 pm



TALK: First Friday Forum - A talk on 'Sustainable Urban Goals' by Dr Arun Bansal; Le Corbusier Centre, Sector 19-B; 4.45 pm

MC HOUSE MEETING:

Special Meeting of General House of the Municipal Corporation on annual Budget; MC building; 11 am

APNI MANDI:

Sector 40 and 46



APNI MANDI: Sector 68, Nayagaon

PANICHAULA

APNI MANDI: Sector 21

Is self-certification as proof of income giving rise to scams?

10 YEARS OF RTE ACT



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With the highest per capita ownership of motor vehicles in the country, the city believes in show-off with so many residents discarding the old each time a new model hits the road. However, there is a category of residents, who believe in showing themselves as poor, at least on paper, despite leading a comfortable life. They are the ones seeking admission for their wards under the EWS category.

The decade-old Right to Education (RTE) Act has virtually opened a chapter on scams in the academic history of the city with fake EWS applications being submitted to schools by well-off residents seeking free education for their children. They come in cars and have their own houses, but also carry a self-



'IDENTIFY EWS VIA CHILD-MAPPING SURVEY'

UT-aided schools say they want to pick kids from the child-mapping survey carried out by the Edu Department. "We become culprits if we take reimbursement for a EWS applicant having an income of ₹4 lakh. It is a criminal offence," says HS Mamik, president of the Independent Schools Association.

INCOME LIMIT FOR EWS

Under Section 2(e) of the RTE Act, a child belonging to a parent or guardian whose annual income from all sources is less than ₹1.50 lakh is considered as a child belonging to the economically weaker section.

declaration document on their "poverty" status.

In Chandigarh, the methodology of declaring an applicant as EWS is also vague and

questionable as the Administration only relies on a self-declaration affidavit submitted by the applicant.

There have been speculations on whether provisions of the RTE Act are reaching the targeted population or are being taken advantage of by persons faking EWS status.

Private schools in the UT have been claiming that EWS seats are being grabbed by non-EWS students, thus denying the rightful claimants of the seats, as also negating the purpose of the RTE.

A letter addressing the issue of fraud EWS cases by the principal of Tender Heart School, Vikrant Suri, to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) highlighted the grave concern over EWS claimants owning houses in various sectors of Chandigarh, a portion of which has been rented out by them, be it the ground floor or the first floor, for rent ranging from Rs10,000 to Rs 15,000

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