

Honourable Speaker Sir,

With your permission, I present the budget estimates for the year 2024-25.

1. Due to unprecedented rains in the State last year, many people of the State lost their lives. May all the departed souls rest in peace and I express my heartfelt condolences to their families on behalf of the State Government and this August House. Due to this rain, there has been widespread loss of life and property in the State, which may take time to get compensated.

2. This is the second budget of our Government. While presenting last year's budget, I had said that public service requires '**good Government**' along with '**good governance**', and that we must bring changes in every sector as per the requirement of changing time. We have initiated this change. As soon as my Government assumed charge, the Old Pension Scheme was restored. 1,15,000 employees have already opted for OPS. All the employees who have come to OPS have received the General Provident Fund (GPF) subscription. About 5,000 employees who have shifted from NPS to OPS, have been issued Pay and Pension Orders (PPOs) as per the OPS after their retirement. A 'Start-up Yojana' worth Rs.680 crore has been started for the youth. Its two components i.e. 'Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Yojana' with a provision of 50 percent subsidy for e-taxis and 'Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Yojana' with a provision of 50 percent subsidy for solar panels with capacity upto 500

KW have already been rolled out. The third component finds a mention in this speech. Our Government has started disbursing an increased pension of Rs.1,500 from Rs.1,150 per month to about 2.37 lakh women in the State. Additionally, all the women in Lahaul & Spiti have started getting a monthly pension of Rs.1,500 from the current financial year. We will fulfil the promises made before the elections, to the people of the State in a phased manner, but we must understand that the old rules, laws and procedures cannot help in fulfilling these promises. Government must bring changes in its organisation, structure, technology and conduct to meet present and future challenges. The State Government has started the process of making multidimensional and fundamental changes with this intent during the past one year. Positive results of these changes have started emerging. This **‘Vayvastha Parivartan’** will not only continue but will also be given pace.

3. The concept of good Government and good governance cannot be realized in the 21st Century by following old ideas of the old institutions. While entering the fifth year of the second decade of the 21st Century, we need to think in the context of the current situation prevailing across the world.

4. Speaker Sir, you will agree that all the conflicts, wars and burning issues of the world also impact the lives of the common people of Himachal Pradesh in one way or another. Be it the Israel-Palestine conflict in the Gaza Strip or Ukraine war, they have affected the economy of our country and State directly or indirectly.

5. Although, change in circumstances and opportunities is a continuous process, every change has its own peculiarity. In the present time, while on one hand there are challenges like rising average temperature of the planet and its adverse effects, on the other hand, there are immense possibilities of bringing betterment through ethical use of disruptive technologies. Our Government will seriously work on the available opportunities through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Inclusive development and public welfare will be ensured with its help, which will accelerate our journey towards '**self-reliance**' of the State.

6. Speaker Sir, the path of development is difficult, there are obstacles to it, but we will not let any obstacle come in the way of development. Good governance is the ability to take tough decisions in challenging times. My Government is capable of dealing with any situation. We have demonstrated this capability during last year's natural disaster. Along with the praise done by the NITI Aayog and national magazines, the relief work done by our Government has also been appreciated by the World Bank.

7. Our Government changed the Relief and Rehabilitation Rules that had been in place for years and released a Special Relief Package of Rs.4,500 crore as a measure of relief to the disaster affected. It is noteworthy that the State Government did not receive any special relief package from the Centre despite the unprecedented natural disaster. But still we set our priorities at the State level and provided as much assistance as possible to every affected person. We

increased the amount given for reconstruction of completely damaged houses from Rs.1,30,000 to Rs.7 lakh, which is an unprecedented increase. Similarly, the compensation for partial damage to a kutchha house has been increased from Rs.6,000 to Rs.1 lakh. The financial assistance given on loss of shops and dhabas has been increased four times from Rs.25,000 to Rs.1,00,000 and the relief given on loss of cow sheds has been increased from just Rs.3,000 to Rs.50,000. Not only this, we have provided an amount of Rs.5,000 per month in rural areas and Rs.10,000 per month in urban areas for the disaster affected families to rent houses. With the help of this increased assistance amount, 2,968 beneficiaries were provided assistance for completely damaged houses, more than 10,000 beneficiaries were provided assistance for repairing partially damaged houses, 3,648 beneficiaries were provided assistance for Gaushalas and about 1,800 beneficiaries were provided assistance in the form of compensation for the loss of livestock. Apart from this, about 2,600 farmers were provided assistance for the damage caused to their crops and land and assistance was provided for the repair of 507 shops and dhabas. Our Government provided immediate relief assistance to 22,130 beneficiaries. The Government will be providing food and water to the disaster affected families till 31st March, 2024. This has happened for the first time in the history of the State. This, probably is the most liberal assistance given by any Government in the entire country in the event of a disaster.

8. Our Government has come to power only and only for the welfare of people of the State. I have

repeatedly said that we have come to power not to enjoy the power but to change the destiny of the State. We are working keeping in mind the long-term interests of every citizen of the State. The neglected, deprived, and marginalized people of the society are at the top priority for us.

9. 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana' is an example of our intent and policy of my Government for the welfare of the last person of the society, under which more than 4,000 children have been adopted as 'Children of the State'. I wish to give a message to every citizen of the State through this scheme that our Government will always stand with people of the State and shall work relentlessly for their welfare.

10. Speaker Sir, the job of the Government is to build people's relationship with the Government in their everyday lives. It has to work to simplify rules, procedures and make Government services available at doorsteps, so that the common person does not have to visit offices and face difficulties due to complex procedures. We have started organizing special courts in the Revenue Department for early settlement of land related matters. 89,091 mutation cases and approximately 6,000 partition cases have been settled in these special courts which were pending for many years. All the processes related to Forest Clearances were simplified to speed up the pace of development works. As a result, in the last one year, in-principle approval was obtained on 58 proposals related to hydropower and other projects which were pending for more than 10 years and the final approval of the Government of India was obtained on 71 proposals

related to forest clearance. The Government challenged the decision given by the NGT staying 'Development Plan for Shimla Planning Area (2041)' in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Due to our efforts, the Hon'ble Supreme Court overturned the decision of the NGT and upheld 'Development Plan for Shimla Planning Area (2041)' which has brought relief to the residents of Shimla. Due to this historic decision, the work for building a modern township in Jathia Devi will also get momentum.

11. My Government has set a target of making the State a 'Green Energy State' by 31st March, 2026. Himachal Pradesh is the leading State in the country to take initiatives from this perspective. We have established 6 'green corridors' in the State. Himachal Pradesh has signed an MoU for Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Project which will entail an investment of Rs.4,000 crore and provide employment to more than 3,500 people of the State. The Government has decided to provide 50 percent subsidy on purchase of electric vehicles to Himachali youth to promote electric vehicles,. There is a great enthusiasm among the youth about this scheme. Similarly, solar energy projects, Roof Top Solar Plants and non-conventional energy-based investments are being specially promoted.

12. Himachal Pradesh used to be known as the 'power State of the country' till a few years ago, but due to the wrong policies adopted in the past, there has been a decrease in the enthusiasm to set up new power projects on one hand and on the other hand, the contracts signed by the previous Governments are not favourable to the interests of the State. There is a need

for further reforms and changes in these policies. Green energy is the future of the country and the world. We must move forward in this direction. There are immense possibilities for investment and employment in this sector. My Government is committed to developing this sector on priority.

13. Speaker Sir, change in the system is the need of the hour. It is an imperative for any society to choose the right path as per the prevailing circumstances for progress. History is witness to the fact that whenever there is a need for major change, traditional methods need to be replaced with new ones. These cause disruption for a brief period of time. But this disruption is temporary and results start showing after this. Today's circumstances are demanding the same from the leadership of Himachal Pradesh. I am confident that we all will convert the challenges of the day into opportunities and with the help of this change, we will move towards '**self-reliance**' by writing the story of a rich and prosperous Himachal.

14. Speaker Sir, it in the backdrop of above points that our Government has envisioned the following for a prosperous and '**self-reliant**' Himachal in the coming 10 years:

- '**Self-reliant Himachal**'
- Prosperous Farmer Himachal
- Green and Clean Himachal
- Electricity State Himachal

- Tourism State Himachal
- Skilled and Innovative Himachal
- Healthy and Educated Himachal
- Investor Friendly Himachal
- Drug Free Himachal
- Illegal Mining Free Himachal
- Prosperous Himachal

15. This is the vision of a prosperous, culturally rich, healthy, capable, strong and **'Aatam Nirbhar Himachal'**. Energetic youth and empowered women of the State will take a lead in bringing this change. This is a picture of a Himachal in which at one end, the farmer families will get increase in income due to the initiatives of integrated development through agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied sectors at the village level, while at the other end, young men and women; educated, skilled and proficient in modern technology will bring positive changes in the State, country and the world. We have to work for building end to end eco-system to realize the dream of agriculture and milk production based **'Aatam Nirbhar'** economy at the local rural level and with the use of modern technology, we must build an eco-system to ensure sustainable growth. Through this budget, I am presenting the draft for realizing the vision of **'Aatam Nirbhar Himachal'**. The process of bringing all necessary changes and structural reforms in the economy of the State will be completed by 2027. The positive results of

these reforms will start flowing concurrently, with which the process of realizing the vision of '**Aatam Nirbhar Himachal**' by 2032 will begin.

16. The adverse financial situation that our Government inherited from the previous Government is known to everyone. Our Government is facing many challenges due to financial mismanagement and wasteful expenditure spree practised by the previous Government. Due to wrong policies in the past, total liabilities in the form of loans have risen to Rs.87,788 crores. Total debt liabilities have increased from Rs.47,906 crore in 2018 to Rs.76,651 crore in 2023. The previous Government implemented the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations for Himachal Government employees at the end of its tenure, which could have been implemented earlier. Due to this delay, the arrears on account of the revised salaries of the employees kept increasing and their liabilities were handed over to our Government. But the present Government did not allow the pace of development to slow down due to lack of resources. As soon as we assumed power, we took tough decisions and started efforts to mobilize additional resources. Due to changes in State Excise Policy, an increase of Rs.359 crore is expected in State Excise Duty in 2023-24 as compared to the previous year. Last year, Rs.1,370 crores were received as VAT, which is estimated to be Rs.1,773 crores by the end of 2023-24. State Excise Duty and VAT together are expected to register a growth rate of 22 percent. It is estimated that approximately Rs.116 crore will be received through 'Milk Cess'. The resources thus raised will be used for the development and welfare of

the people of the State. Our Government will make every possible effort to make the State '**self-reliant**', even if the toughest decisions are required to be taken for this.

17. Speaker Sir, there will be a need for additional financial resources to take the State towards '**self-reliance**'. Our Government has sent a proposal of Rs.9,906 crores to the Central Government as a relief for the loss caused by the recent disaster on the basis of '**Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**'. Apart from this, about Rs.8,000 crores are lying with the Government of India on account of the contribution made by the employees who have shifted from NPS to OPS. The State Government is yet to receive about Rs.4,500 crore from the share in the projects of Bhakra-Beas Management Board'. Overall, the State Government can get an additional amount of Rs.22,406 crores. I would request all the Hon'ble Members of this House, especially the Hon'ble Members of the opposition, to join hands to get this amount released from the Government of India at the earliest in order to take the State's economy on the trajectory of '**self-reliance**'.

National Economy

18. Speaker Sir, the Indian economy is estimated to grow at the rate of 7.3 percent during 2023-24. A growth rate of 5 percent or more is expected in all sectors. However, the growth rate in the agriculture sector is estimated at only 1.8 percent, which points towards serious structural problems in the agricultural sector.

19. Speaker Sir, the growth rate of the State's economy is estimated to be 7.1 percent during 2023-24 as compared to 6.9 percent during 2022-23. During 2023-24, the per capita income in Himachal is estimated at Rs.2,35,199. The State's Gross Domestic Product is estimated to be Rs.2,07,430 crore in 2023-24.

State Economy

20. Speaker Sir, it is proposed to spend Rs.9,990 crore for the State Development Budget during 2024-25. It is proposed to spend Rs.2,516 crore for 'Scheduled Caste Development Programme', Rs.899 crore for 'Tribal Development Programme' and Rs.110 crore for 'Backward Area Development Programme'. Apart from this, an outlay of Rs.5,280 crore is proposed for Central Schemes.

Development
Budget

21. In order to convert the challenges in the development process of the State into opportunities, a **“Himachal Pradesh Transformation Cell (HPTC)”** will be established in the Planning Department. The HPTC will give suggestions to accelerate the development of the State based on best practices followed at local, national and international level. Along with this, a separate **“Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre”** will be established in the Planning Department for monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes. Both these units will start functioning from the next financial year.

22. Speaker Sir, the agriculture sector is the backbone of the State's economy, which is directly or indirectly linked with about 69 percent of the State's population. Our Government has always been committed to increasing the income of the farmers of the State.

Agriculture/value
addition/Animal
Husbandry and
Cow Protection.

23. The State Government will promote self-employment in natural farming. I announce a new scheme “**Rajiv Gandhi Prakritik Kheti Start-up Yojana**” as the 3rd component of Rs.680 crore ‘Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Yojana’ aimed at increasing the income of farmers. Under this, in the first phase, 10 farmers from each Panchayat will be encouraged for ‘**Chemical Free Farming**’ resulting in about 36,000 farmers adopting the natural farming. Farmers who are already doing farming will be given priority. As the farmers continue to join this scheme and use cow dung instead of urea and 12-32-16 fertilizer in the production of wheat and urea in maize, I announce that their grains will be purchased at a minimum support price (MSP). With the aim of motivating unemployed youth for natural farming, maximum of 20 quintals of naturally grown grains per family will be procured by the Government at the MSP of Rs.40 per kg and maize at the rate of Rs.30 per kg. The MSP given by our Government is the highest in the country. This is another effort of our Government for making Himachal Pradesh ‘**Self-Reliant**’. This will provide a security net to those farmers who practice natural farming and youth in rural areas will be motivated for self-employment in the agriculture sector. With this, 15,000 acres of land will be certified as natural farming land through Web Portal. 10 new ‘Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)’ will be formed under the intervention. Rs.50 crore will be spent on this during 2024-25. In addition to this, Rs.10 crore will be spent for giving assistance to the farmers for wire mesh and barbed wire.

24. Our Government will ensure equitable development of 2,500 agricultural clusters over a period of 3 to 5 years under 'Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Mission'. Under this Mission, High Value crops will be promoted in various areas based on climate, so that the income of farmers can increase by maximum amount in the shortest time.

25. The year 2023 was celebrated all over the world as 'International year of Millets'. A detailed action plan will be prepared to promote the production of coarse grains in the State, through which farmers and other people of the State will be sensitized about the cultural importance and nutritional value of coarse grains.

26. Under the 'JICA Phase-II project', 50,000 hectares of additional land will be brought under vegetable cultivation in 2024-25. Apart from this, provision will be made for the value addition to the produce of beneficiary farmers through food processing and necessary marketing linkages will be developed to sell these products.

27. Speake Sir, I announce the construction and upgradation of the following mandis in 2024-25:-

- ✓ New mandis will be constructed at Mehndali and Shilaru in Shimla district and Bandrol in Kullu district.
- ✓ Paonta Sahib, Khairi, Ghanduri and Nauhradhar in Sirmaur; Chauribihal, Patlikuhal and Khegsu in Kullu; Takoli and Kangni in Mandi; Jasur, Passu and Palampur in Kangra; and, Parwanoo, Kunihar and Waknaghat mandis in Solan will be upgraded.

28. To bring transparency in all the transactions taking place in the mandis, all their processes as well as the functioning of the yards of the Agricultural Produce Market Committees and the State Agricultural Marketing Board will be digitized and brought to a common platform.

29. Chat Bot and AI based tools will be provided on the web enabled agriculture portal and mobile app will be launched enabling access to land records with the provision of helpdesk for convenience of the farmers. Technical support will be taken from the Department of Digital Technologies and Governance and 'Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC)' for this.

30. With the aim of increasing the income of farmers through vegetable production, the farmers of the State will be given saplings of good quality and necessary training will also be provided to them. For this, a '**Centre of Excellence for Vegetable Nursery Production**' will be established which will be able to provide 8 to 10 lakh saplings in a year.

31. The government farms of the entire State will be revived and upgraded for the multiplication of high yield seeds in a phased manner. In 2024, Bhattu Farm in Kangra, Berti Farm in Solan and Bhangani Farm in Sirmour will be upgraded and through these, latest agricultural technology, nursery production etc. will be showcased.

32. My Government will ensure increase in the income of farmers by linking animal husbandry and milk production with natural farming. With the aim of encouraging farmers to increase milk production and reduce use of chemical fertilizers, I announce to procure the cow and buffalo milk by the Government by increasing the minimum support price from the current Rs.38 per litre to Rs.45 per litre; and, from Rs.47 to Rs.55 per litre, respectively with effect from 1st April, 2024. This is the first time in the history of Himachal that minimum support price has been ensured even on milk. Himachal Pradesh is the only State in the entire India to buy milk at the minimum support price. This increased amount will be given to milk producers according to the quality of milk. If a farmer gets a higher price in the open market, she/he will be free to sell it in the open market. More dung will be available due to increased livestock, which will help in natural farming. The wheat produced through natural farming will be certified and procured by the Government. We are working towards the goal of enabling farmer families to earn a fixed income by encouraging milk production and linking it to natural farming in a phased manner so that we can fulfil the promises made before the elections. An additional expenditure of about Rs.150 crore will be incurred on it in 2024-25, which will help in supporting this intervention.

33. It takes a lot of time to process the reimbursement claims against the market fees paid by milk producing societies like Himachal Pradesh Milk Federation (MILKFED), Kamdhenu Hitkari Manch etc. by the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).

Due to this, a lot of money of these societies remains with the Committee for a long time. I announce that from 1st April, 2024, the fees charged by APMC from milk producing societies will be waived-off. This will benefit these societies a lot.

34. My aim is that the farmers and animal rearers should not only get the cost-based price of milk produced but also get quality bonus. To achieve this goal, my Government is working keeping a definite time line in mind. This will be achieved with the joint efforts of the Government and farmers. Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam will start a skilling programme for providing necessary skills in the field of Animal Husbandry to youth of the State.

36. I announce the establishment of 1.5 LLPD (Lakh Litre Per Day) capacity '**Fully Automated Milk and Milk Products Plant**' at Dhagwar in Kangra during the year 2024-25 under the 'Him-Ganga' scheme. Land has been made available for this plant and its capacity will later be increased to 3 LLPD. In this plant, milk powder will be produced with State-of-the-art technology so that the milk in excess of market demand is preserved for a longer duration. In addition, curd, khoya, ghee, ice cream, flavoured milk, processed cheese and other products will also be produced. Along with this, packaging facility with UHT (Ultra Heat Technology) will also be made available here.

36. An additional plant with a capacity of 50,000 LPD will be made functional in Duttanagar. Priority will also be given to the maintenance and upgradation of milk plants currently working in different districts.

37. 'Milk Processing Plants' with modern technology will be established in Una and Hamirpur also on which approximately Rs.50 crore will be spent.

38. 200 refrigerated milk vans will be provided to the local youth at a subsidy of 50 percent for transporting the milk from farmers/collection centres to the milk processing plants.

39. With the aim of providing good breed animals to the farmers, I announce the establishment of '**Artificial Insemination Training Centre**' at Darlaghat in Solan district. This facility will be used for training of farmers for artificial insemination.

40. 44 mobile veterinary vans have already been purchased to provide medical facilities for serious animal diseases through specialist veterinarians. This service will be fully started in the year 2024. A veterinarian and a pharmacist will be deployed in each van. Animal rearers will be able to get treatment facilities for their cattle and other information related to animal husbandry can be accessed by calling toll free phone number 1962 from anywhere in the State.

41. Under 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission', a '**Centre of Excellence**' will be established at Basal in Una district at a cost of Rs.44 crore with technical assistance from Denmark. The land required for this centre has been transferred in the name of Animal Husbandry Department.

42. In changing times, there is also a need for reorganizing and restructuring of the Animal Husbandry Department. A detailed plan will be made for

rationalization of departmental schemes and restructuring the department, for which, an expert committee will be formed. A detailed action plan to increase the milk productivity in the State will be prepared and implemented under the 'National Dairy Plan-II' through MILKFED.

43. Himachal Pradesh is also a State of sheep and goat rearers. There are 8 lakh sheep and 11 lakh goats in the State. There is no separate provision for FMD Vaccine, deworming medicine and other medicines for sheep and goats. No provision has been made for this even by the Government of India. Other major problems of sheep-goat farmers include improvement in Dipping and drenching processes, improvement in the system of wool harvesting, depletion of traditional pastures and paths, sharp fall in the prices of wool due to changes in the international trade. I announce the launch of a new scheme **“Bhed Bakri Paalak Protsahan Yojana”** to address above issues. An additional amount of Rs.10 crore will be spent on this scheme.

44. A State Level Task Force will be formed to solve the problem of increasing number of stray animals in the State which will suggest guidelines for transferring these animals in nearby Cow-Sanctuaries and Gau-Sadans in consultation with the farmers and local communities within 3 months. This Task Force will give suggestions to construct new and maintain and operate the existing Cow-Sanctuaries and Gau-Sadans.

45. I am happy to announce the increase the financial assistance of Rs.700 to Rs.1,200 per cow per month for dependent cows in the private Gaushalas.

Rs.582 crore are proposed for Agriculture sector.

46. Speaker Sir, the horticulturalists of the State have made a major contribution to the economy of Himachal Pradesh. Increasing the income of horticulturalists has always been one of the priorities of our Government. I announce to complete the following development works in the horticulture sector during 2024-25 at a cost of Rs.300 crore:-

Horticulture

- Construction of 75 minor irrigation schemes.
- Plantation of high density sub-tropical fruit trees will be done in about 1,200 hectare area which will benefit about 6,500 farmer families of 80 farmer clusters.
- A '**Centre of Excellence in Horticulture**' will be established at a cost of Rs.12 crore which will act as 'One Stop Resource Centre' for all the needs related to quality, skill, tourism and marketing related to horticulture.
- 2 State-of-the-art Fruit Processing Units will be established in sub-tropical areas of the State.
- A '**Foundation Block**' for mother trees/bud wood banks will be set up for the promotion of guava, lemon and other sub-tropical fruits and their development at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

47. I, after having consultations with the orchardists, announce that the use of universal carton will be started from the apple season for 2024. A committee has been constituted in December 2023 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Agriculture, to suggest guidelines in this direction.

48. Necessary guidelines will be prepared in collaboration with Dr. Y.S. Parmar Horticulture and Forestry University to promote the production of high return fruits like dragon fruit, avocado, blue berry, macadamia nut etc. in the State. This will lead to a rapid and certain increase in the income of the farmers of the State.

49. Speaker Sir, in view of the increasing number of tourists in the State, there is a need to promote **‘Horticulture Tourism’**. A policy will be made in collaboration with the Rural Development Department, Horticulture Department and Tourism Department to develop big orchards and groups of orchards located in the State from the point of view of rural tourism. Under this policy, necessary training and other assistance will be provided to interested horticulturalists.

Rs. 531 crore are proposed for Horticulture sector.

Fisheries

50. Speaker Sir, with the aim of increasing the income of about 13,000 fishermen of the State, I make the following announcements:—

- ✓ Fishermen will be given financial assistance for construction of new fishing ponds in an area of 20 hectares at a subsidy of 80 percent.

- ✓ A new 'Centre of Excellence' having a 'Carp Fish Farm' will be established in Hamirpur District.
- ✓ 'Brood Bank' will be set up at Nalagarh-based 'Fish Seed Farm' at a cost of Rs.5 crore.
- ✓ Motorcycles, three-wheelers and Ice-boxes will be made available to the fishermen of the State at subsidized rates.
- ✓ 10 new large 'Biofloc Fish Production' ponds and 10 new small scale 'Biofloc Fish Production' units will be established.
- ✓ Three new 'Feed Mills' will be established.
- ✓ Two new ice plants will be set up.

51. Apart from this, 150 new trout fish production units and two new trout hatcheries will be established in the cold areas of the State to promote trout fish production in the private sector.

52. Speaker Sir, heavy loss has been caused to infrastructure including Larji Power House due to recent incessant rains. The total loss to the Larji project has been estimated as Rs.658 crore. Unit No. 1 of the Larji Power House has been fully restored and the other two units will also be restored shortly.

Energy/Multi-purpose projects.

53. The loan agreement has been signed with the World Bank for implementation of 'Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme' with a cost of approximately Rs.2,000 crore. The work for ensuring

24X7 power supply in 13 towns of the State with the help of Smart Grid Technology will be started under it soon.

54. With an aim to make Himachal Pradesh the first 'Green Energy' State of the country by 2026 and to promote solar energy in the State, I make the following announcements:—

- ❖ The foundation stone of Himachal's largest 'Solar Power Project' with 32 MW capacity located at Pekhubella was laid on 2nd December, 2023. I am happy to announce that it will be commissioned by the end of March, 2024.
- ❖ The 'Aghlor Solar Power Project' with an installed capacity of 10 MW in Una will be ready for commissioning by June, 2024.
- ❖ Bhanjal (Una) Solar Power Project with an installed capacity of 5 MW will be dedicated to the people of the State by September, 2024.
- ❖ The implementation of 'Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Yojana', envisaging the installation of solar panels ranging from 100 to 500 KW on the owned land at 45 percent subsidy will be given pace. The target of harnessing 100 MW of solar energy has been envisaged under the scheme in the first phase.

- ❖ Registration of solar energy projects to be established on private land will be kept open for the entire year so that exploitation of 100 MW solar capacity can be realized soon.
- ❖ Grid connected Solar Roof Top Plants and 'Solar Water Heating System' will be installed in the Baal-Baalika Aashrams, old age homes and 'Rajiv Gandhi Model Day Boarding School' in the State.
- ❖ It will be made mandatory to supply at least 20 percent of the connected load in all Government buildings through grid connected 'Roof Top Solar Plants' in a phased manner.
- ❖ In Solan, Palampur and Dharamshala Municipal Corporations, it will be made mandatory to install 'Solar Water Heating System' in new buildings for all the domestic consumers to get the NOC. Installation of 'Roof Top Solar Plants' will be made mandatory on the roofs of all the Government buildings located in these Corporations in a phased manner.
- ❖ The work of setting up 5 solar parks with a capacity of 501 MW and other solar power projects with a capacity of 212 MW will be started in Una, Kangra, Solan, Sirmaur, Mandi and Shimla districts.

55. A detailed action plan will be implemented across the State under Re-vamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses at a cost of approximately Rs.1,885 crore. This will increase the quality of power supply apart from ensuring financial sustainability of the distribution sector.

56. It is the need of the hour to have an Efficient Transmission and Distribution Network along with robust power generation base, so that not only the electricity demand of the people of the State is met but the surplus power can also be sold to other States when required. To further strengthen this, the work on 4 transmission lines at a cost of Rs.96 crore and 6 Extra High Voltage (EHV) sub-stations will be completed at a cost of Rs.290 crore during 2024-25.

57. The transmission assets of the State have been linked with the National Grid through 'Central Transmission Utility System'. The construction work of 'Joint Control Centre (JCC)' in Kunihar and sub-station in Dehan of Kangra will be completed in 2024-25. This will also facilitate quick maintenance of transmission lines.

Tourism

58. Speaker Sir, the announcement of making Kangra district the tourism capital of the State was made in the last budget. As a follow-up to it, notification under Section 11 for the expansion of Gaggal Airport in Kangra has been issued on 7th July, 2023. For this, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan will be finalized soon and the land acquisition work will be started. Apart from this, the DPR of Mandi Airport prepared by WAPCOS Ltd. is being examined.

59. Out of the total 16 proposed heliports in the State, 9 heliports viz. Jaskot in Hamirpur; Rakkar and Palampur in Kangra; Sultanpur in Chamba; Aaloo Ground, Manali in Kullu; Sharbo in Kinnaur; and, Jispa, Sissu and Rangrik in Lahaul-Spiti will be developed in the first phase. The feasibility study of these 9 heliports has been obtained and Obstacle Limitation Survey (OLS) of Rakkar, Sultanpur and Palampur; and architectural designs of Rakkar and Palampur have been received. The DPRs of Rakkar, Sultanpur and Palampur heliports will be ready soon. Construction work of Heliports will be started at Rakkar, Palampur, Reckong-Peo and Chamba at a cost of Rs.13 crore per Heliport. The 2nd phase will see construction of Heliports at Pangti and Holi in Chamba, Auhar in Bilaspur, Dharkiyari in Sirmaur, Chanshal Dhar in Shimla, Jankaur Harr in Una and Galanag in Solan. Necessary assistance will be taken from 'Pawan Hans Limited' through Government of India.

60. Moving towards commitment for tourism development, a master plan has been prepared for the development and management of Pong Dam under Swadesh Darshan-2. Along with this, the following 5 tourist destinations will be developed from tourism point of view:—

- Chandratal, Kaza and Tandi in Lahaul-Spiti.
- Rackchham and Nako – Chango – Khab in Kinnaur.

61. I am happy to announce that a Sky Walk Bridge will be constructed in the famous tourist place Haasan Valley near Kufri.

62. With the aim of providing better facilities to the tourists during their stay in the State, all the Home Stay Units located in the State will be brought under the ambit of the 'Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development and Registration Act', so that their operations are streamlined and quality of services improve.

63. Speaker Sir, the increasing number of cancer patients in the State is a matter of concern. Necessary medical facilities will have to be arranged for prevention and treatment of cancer in the State. I announce to establish a **"State Cancer Institute"** in 'Dr. Radhakrishnan Medical College, Hamirpur' with the latest State of the Art diagnostic and treatment facilities at a cost of Rs.100 crore. A study will be conducted with the help of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to find out the reasons for increasing incidence of cancer in the State.

64. Speaker Sir, to provide the facility of chemotherapy and Palliative Care to the patients suffering from cancer in the State, **"Cancer Day Care Centres"** will be established in the district hospitals and selected 'Adarsh Swasthya Kendras'. There will be a provision of beds for all the patients undergoing chemotherapy in these centres and chemotherapy medicines will be included in the essential medicine list of the State so that the patients do not have to spend much money for chemotherapy.

65. A Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine will be set up at a cost of Rs.21 crore at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla for advanced radiotherapy treatment of cancer patients.

66. Work on 69 'Adarsh Swasthya Kendras' announced in the last budget is in various stages of completion and most of these will be completed in 2024-25. Rs.1 crore per Centre will be made available for procuring machinery and equipment during this year.

67. Efforts will be made to give pace to all the works in progress in PGI Satellite Centre, Una Centre. Our Government has made efforts to arrange necessary environmental clearances which were lying pending for last many years. All the started works will be completed on priority.

68. 'Hospital Management Information Service (HMIS)' will be established in 53 health institutions of the State in the first phase. With this, patients will be able to get better treatment on the basis of their medical history. In this sequence, '**Aayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs**' of about 57 lakh persons of the State have been created. ABHA ID for the remaining eligible population of the State will be issued soon.

69. In view of the increasing cases of Scrub Typhus in the State, I announce the establishment of a "**State level Scrub Typhus Research Unit**" at a cost of Rs.1 crore.

70. To encourage breastfeeding in newborn babies, 'Lactation Management Centres' will be established in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda and Kamla Nehru Hospital, Shimla. X-Ray facility will be provided through private practitioners in those areas where health institutions do not have it.

71. By the end of 2026, one 'Integrated Public Health Lab' with all test facilities will be established in each district.

72. Construction work will be started in new nursing colleges in Nahan, Chamba and Hamirpur as announced in the last budget. Along with this, the General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) school in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda will be upgraded to Nursing College.

73. A 'Guest Worker Screening Project' will be started for screening of migrant workers working in Baddi, Barotiwala, Nalagarh, Parwanoo, Paonta and Una industrial areas.

74. All the previous Governments have started many schemes for the welfare of the people of the State. Two such schemes, 'HIMCARE' and 'SAHARA' were started in 2019 and their benefits have also reached the eligible persons. But after the empirical analysis of information, some structural and operational problems in their implementation have come to light in the absence of convergence and application of technology. This has resulted in duplication of efforts. I announce to remove these shortcomings and make some necessary reforms with the help of national level domain experts, so that the people in need can get timely benefits of these schemes. The implementation of both these schemes will continue as usual till such time.

Rs.3,415 crore are proposed for Health sector.

75. Speaker Sir, the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru believed that today's children will make the India of tomorrow. The way we nurture them will decide the future of the country. This statement has become even more relevant in today's time because of the pace at which the changes are taking place due to technological advancements in the whole world and their impact on every sphere of life. In this rapidly changing new world, the education system will play a very important role in preparing children for an uncertain future.

76. It is necessary that our education system be inclusive, equitable, future-oriented, aware of new technology and sensitive to Indian values of life. We must create a conducive environment for assimilation of constitutional values from primary level to university level. In the Constitution of India, we the people of India have set for ourselves the objective of a sovereign, socialist, secular and a democratic republic. The objective of our education system is to prepare children for unity in diversity and building a multi-cultural India in accordance with this pious spirit.

77. My Government wishes that the children of Himachal Pradesh develop a healthy outlook towards life in accordance with the basic spirit of the Constitution and become the best in every skill, from basic literacy and numeracy to the use of Artificial Intelligence. To achieve this goal, we have initiated comprehensive reforms in the field of education.

78. Shared use of resources available in primary, elementary and higher education institutions is the

need of the hour. Cluster system has been started in the State with this objective and it is yielding positive results. It will be further expanded and strengthened. These institutions will be provided with quality class-rooms with appropriate size, smart class-rooms with smart boards, audio-visual teaching aids, learning software, proper seating facilities; full strength of teachers, playground, clean toilets along with other facilities.

79. In today's global era, it is an imperative that even the children of rural areas are connected with the world from home using latest technology and they get employment and self-employment anywhere in the world on the basis of their ability and skills in the coming time. Hence we have introduced the option of choosing English medium starting from the first standard. Research and various studies clearly show that the best time to learn a language is till the age of 12 years. Thus, the option of choosing English medium from the first class itself has its relevance. This decision will benefit all the children of the State and especially the village children.

80. According to the 'National Education Policy', 5+3+3+4 education system will be implemented at the school level in the State, which will also include a three year pre-school 'Baal Vaatika' curriculum. At present pre-schools are being run in more than 6,000 primary schools in the State. To strengthen this system, 6,000 Nursery Teachers will be appointed in the next financial year. Eligible Anganwadi Workers will also be given the opportunity to be selected as Nursery Teachers and for this they will also be made to undergo a 'Bridge Course'.

To implement this system smoothly in accordance with the 'National Education Policy', the minimum age for admission in the first class has been fixed at 6 years and for admission in the three classes of pre-primary, the minimum age limit has been fixed 3, 4 and 5 years, respectively.

81. Educational institutions in the entire State will be developed as 'Institution of Excellence (IOE)' in a phased manner by following the pre-determined parameters. In the year 2024-25, a target has been set to make 850 educational institutions as 'IOE' which include 500 primary schools, 100 high schools, 200 senior secondary schools and 50 degree colleges. These institutions will have smart classrooms and other facilities and all the teachers in full strength in place. Their performance will be evaluated periodically based on objective criteria. School/College Leadership training will be started so that the Principals/Headmasters of all the schools and colleges of the State can provide necessary leadership in the field of education.

82. For better coordination between schools and society and to increase community participation, it has been decided to start "**Apna Vidyalaya-Mera Vidyalaya-Mera Samman**" scheme. In this, while on the one hand everyone from the Chief Minister to the block level officers will adopt one educational institution, on the other hand, the community will be connected with the schools. Arrangements will also be made to provide free education through eligible and interested persons.

83. In every Sub-Division, the Sub-Divisional Officers will have to compulsorily organize a review

meeting of all the primary schools once in a month by rotation. In this meeting, the performance of not only the students but also of the teachers will be appraised. Interaction will also be held with the parents in this meeting. Appropriate decisions regarding maintenance of the schools will also be taken in it. Necessary guidelines will be issued in this regard.

84. The system of annual ranking of all the educational institutions of the State and the system of giving 'Performance Based Grant' to them will be started. This entire system will be developed through an online portal, and it will also be shared with the general public and parents for which a website will be developed.

85. While carrying out comprehensive reforms in the education sector, special focus is on qualitative education. The decisions taken so far include increasing the total teaching days in a year, fixed timings for sports and cultural activities, gradually reducing the non-teaching duties of teachers, and reducing the formalities of records in Mid Day Meal scheme. Instructions have been issued to keep teachers away from construction work of buildings in schools. The practice of asking for the same information repeatedly is being discouraged. It has also been observed that one teacher of every school is busy carrying Daak almost regularly and used to remain absent from school. This system has also been completely banned. To develop a sense of respect for their institution among teachers and children, schools have also been given the right to choose the uniform of their choice for their children in consultation with the parents. In the coming year, necessary changes will be

brought by thoroughly examining the processes, structure and rules from primary level to university level for improvement in quality of education.

86. To develop the culture of reading and teaching, a massive public campaign in the name of “**Padho Himachal**” will be started in the State in the year 2024-25. Along with schools, rural and urban communities will also be involved in this campaign. Under this campaign, libraries will be created in 500 educational institutions of the State for general readers and especially youth and participation of common people will be ensured in the management and working of libraries of these educational institutions.

87. I announce the construction of a library and a reading room with modern facilities each at every district and sub-divisional headquarters and Gram Panchayats. This will be completed in a phased manner. In the first phase, 493 libraries will be constructed at the Panchayat level and books and other facilities will be provided on which Rs.88 crore will be spent.

88. Trained teachers have a major contribution in improving the level of education. Therefore, to make the training of teachers more result oriented, changes will be made in the rules of District Institute of Education Training (DIETs) and State Council of Educational Research (SCERT) and their functioning will be re-oriented to make them effective. Similarly, State Institute of Educational Management and Training (SIEMAT) will be reorganized and made functional.

89. In those places where separate schools or colleges are running for girls and boys, a single co-educational institution will be started by merging them in consultation with the local residents. This will not only help in the academic development of children, but they will also emerge strong mentally with an improved personality. The State Government will bear the cost of transportation in picking and dropping the children to a nearby school in such areas where there is no primary schools within the radius of 3 to 5 Kilometres.

90. According to an estimate, India has to suffer a loss of Rs.49 arab 78 crore every year due to water-borne diseases. Two-thirds of India's districts are suffering from water shortage. A statewide campaign will be run to ensure that children get clean water to drink. I announce that children of Government schools, whose number is more than 8,50,000, will be provided with a safe and clean water bottle.

91. The curriculum being taught in the State will be re-evaluated in the context of Constitutional values and the rich cultural heritage of the State will be given representation in it. For this, courses on the history and culture of Himachal, Indian Constitution, health, and other subjects of general knowledge will be started compulsorily from class five. One period for sports and physical exercise will compulsorily be included in the timetable of schools. Priority will be given to the appointment of Physical Education Teachers as per requirement.

92. Self-help groups, in schools, with more than 500 children, will be encouraged to participate in preparing and serving food under Mid Day Meals.

93. Accreditation of colleges through National Assessment and Accreditation Council is a good medium to assess the efforts made in providing quality education in colleges of the State. In 2024-25, all the eligible colleges of the State will submit their claim for accreditation.

94. For the year 2024-25, the State Government has sent a proposal of Rs.1,052 crore for funding to the Government of India under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Rs.400 crore under the STARS Project. Apart from this, a proposal of Rs.1,000 crore under PM USHA and a proposal for a grant of Rs.477 crore under PM SHRI is also under consideration of the Government of India. I expect the Government of India to soon approve these proposals.

95. The previous Government has started building 'Atal Adarsh Vidyalayas' at three places in the State. My Government will not only provide the necessary funds to complete these but will also make them functional. A special cadre of employees will be created for 'Rajiv Gandhi Model Day Boarding Schools' and 'Atal Adarsh Vidyalayas' and these will be developed as educational institutions of international standards. In the first phase, I announce to start the construction work of five Rajiv Gandhi Model Day Boarding Schools, namely Lahdoo and Nagrota Bagwan (Kangra), Amlehar and Bhoranj (Hamirpur), and Sanghnai (Una).

Rs. 9,560 crore are proposed for Education sector.

96. Speaker Sir, to prepare the youth of the State for employment and self-employment opportunities, it is necessary to provide skills as per the market demand. I make the following announcements in this respect:—

- B.Tech and Diploma courses in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science) will be started in Rajiv Gandhi Government Engineering College, Nagrota Bagwan.
- Diploma course in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) will be started in Government Polytechnic, Sundernagar.
- Diploma course Computer Engineering and IOT will be started in Government Polytechnic, Hamirpur and Talwar.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Engineering College, Pragati Nagar will start B.Tech and Diploma courses in Civil Engineering .
- Classes will be started in Government Polytechnic, Jandaur from the academic session 2024-25.

97. 448 employers have been added to the EEMIS portal of the Labour and Employment Department so far. More private sector employers will be added to it and through this, 180 campus interviews will be organized in 2024-25. Keeping in view the interests of the workers in the unorganized sector, a target has

been set to register 20,87,000 workers in this sector by the end of 2024. Apart from this, the employment registration portal of the Labour and Employment Department will also be linked with the Common Service Centres (CSCs) so that the youth of the State can get themselves registered through these centres also.

Rs.330 crore are proposed for Technical Education sector.

98. Speaker Sir, at present approximately Rs.1,260 crore is being spent for giving social security pension to the old age, widows, single women, disabled, leprosy patients with 7,84,000 beneficiaries getting its benefit. In 2024-25, 40,000 new eligible beneficiaries will be included in this scheme on which an additional expenditure of Rs.70 crore will be made.

Social Security Pension.

99. Speaker Sir, till now no educational institute is available in the State for higher education of disabled persons. I announce the establishment of a '**Centre of Excellence for Education of Divyangjans**' in Kandaghat for higher education of the disabled persons in the State. '**Institution for Children with Special Disabilities (ICSA, Dhalli)**' will also be shifted into this Centre. All the facilities including playground, residential accommodation and others will be provided for Divyang Children in the age group of 0-27 years in this Centre. Financial assistance for paying the rent of hired accommodation will be given to such eligible Divyang children who do not have any accommodation to live in.

Women and child development and welfare of weaker sections.

100. With the aim of drawing the youth of the State away from drugs and taking them towards nation

building, a State level **“Model Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Centre”** will be established in Kandaghat with all the facilities along with library, gym, indoor and outdoor sports etc. in this centre. It will also be ensured that this Centre is well connected with road and there is a Community Health Centre or a Civil Hospital in the vicinity of this centre which will have counselling facilities alongwith other medical facilities. A Statewide campaign will be started to sensitize and educate the youth and other stakeholders about ill effects of drug use and related issues. An ‘effective monitoring and reporting system’ starting from sub-division level right up to State level with clear cut responsibilities will also be established.

101. Speaker Sir, there has been a remarkable expansion of health services in Himachal Pradesh and our Government has always been making efforts to provide timely and quality health services to all sections of the State. I announce the launch of a new scheme **“Mukhyamantri Sukh Arogya Yojana”**. Under this, free medical facilities will be provided to all such farmers and elderly people above 70 years of age in the State who are not paying income tax or do not get any pension.

102. I also announce the launch of a new scheme **“Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Shiksha Yojana”**. Under this, the State Government will bear the expenses of the education of children up to 27 years of age of all such widows in the State, whose annual income from all sources is less than Rs.1 lakh. This assistance will be provided to these children after they get admission in

medical college, engineering college, NIT, IIM, IIT, Nursing, graduation/ postgraduation courses. Apart from this, Rs.1,000 per month will be deposited in the RD accounts of all eligible children of widows, destitute, divorced and disabled parents till they attain the age of 18 years. The annual premium for health insurance of all eligible women will be borne by the State Government. Approximately Rs.41 crore additional expenditure will be made on this.

103. Our Government is determined to ensure that the benefits of various schemes being run for social security reach the beneficiaries in time. I also announce that in case the meeting of 'District Development Committee' is not held on time, the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district will be given the powers to approve the benefits to be given to various beneficiaries under welfare schemes. In such a situation, the approvals given will have to be mandatorily approved in the upcoming meeting of the District Welfare Committee.

104. GST, Tally, Artificial Intelligence, Data Management, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, AutoCAD etc. will be included in the Post Graduate Diploma and other Diploma courses being run for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, OBC and other beneficiaries so that they acquire skills as per the market demand and get employment accordingly.

Rs. 2,457 crore are proposed for Women and Child Development and Welfare of Weaker Sections.

105. Speaker Sir, due to the disaster caused by excessive rains, our Government made available ration, LPG connections and cylinders immediately at no cost to the families affected by the disaster. This small assistance provided by our Government became a big support for the affected families in this time of crisis.

106. Mustard oil and refined oil being given through ration depots is fortified with vitamin 'A' and 'D' as per the norms of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Till now, this oil is available to the consumers only in a limited quantity from the ration depots. The consumers have to buy this oil from the open market at higher prices in the event of weddings, festivals and other functions. I announce that all consumers will be able to get this oil as per their requirement from ration depots starting from 1st April, 2024. This will provide benefit of approximately Rs.100 crore to women of the State.

107. To further strengthen the Public Distribution System, the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IMPDS) will be upgraded and National Portability will further be strengthened under One Nation – One Ration Card (ONORC). This will help in bringing transparency in providing articles as per the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA). Under this, a provision of Web based KYC will be made so that the beneficiaries can get the benefits of this scheme in any State. Warehouse-wise monitoring of flour allocated from flour mills will also be ensured.

More than Rs. 200 crore will be spent for food subsidy.

108. Speaker Sir, the 'Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs)' as announced last year and being constructed in each block, will be operationalized in 2024-25. Backward and forward linkages will be ensured in their operation so that other areas and communities can also benefit from them.

109. After achieving the target of having a model Panchayat in all the districts, this model will be replicated through convergence in other Panchayats in a phased manner.

110. With the aim of making the rural areas of the State clean, a target has been set to declare 5,000 additional villages as ODF+ (Open Defecation Free Plus) in 2024-25. Apart from this, depending on the availability of land, Faecal Sludge Management Plants will be established at least at 4 sites.

111. A target has been set to form 1,000 Self Help Groups in rural areas in 2024-25. Apart from giving an amount of about Rs.32 crore to these groups in the form of Revolving Fund and Community Investment Fund, a target has also been set to give them a loan of about Rs.50 crore. About Rs.100 crore will be spent on Self Help Groups.

112. The accounts of all the Panchayats have been linked to the e-Gram Swaraj Software application. This system will be further strengthened for the optimal allocation of resources and monitoring expenditure of all Panchayats.

113. In 2024-25, Rs.352 crore will be spent on Panchayati Raj Institutions as per the recommendations

of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and Rs.448 crore will be spent on the recommendations of the Sixth State Finance Commission.

114. The then UPA Government introduced 'Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)' which has proved to be a boon for the rural unemployed. Through this, MGNREGA workers are not only getting employment but are also contributing in the creation of public assets in rural areas. I announce to increase the daily wage of MGNREGA workers from the current Rs.240 to Rs.300. This unprecedented increase in the wages has been the first in the history of Himachal Pradesh. This will give pace to growth of rural economy of the State in achieving "**Self-reliance**". With this, the State Government will pay a top-up of Rs.76 per day to MGNREGA workers out of its own resources. In addition to this, such "**Widow, Single/Destitute/Divyang Women MGNREGA Workers**" whose annual income is less than Rs.2.5 lakh and have completed 100 days of wages in a year will be given assistance up to Rs.3 lakh for constructing a house, provided that this assistance has not been availed under any other program by them.

115. I am happy to announce increase in the honorarium of representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions as under:—

- With an increase of Rs.4,000 per month, Chairman, Zila Parishad will get Rs.24,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.3,000 per month, Vice Chairman, Zila Parishad will get Rs.18,000 per month honorarium.

- With an increase of Rs.1,300 per month, Member, Zila Parishad will get Rs.7,800 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,900 per month, Chairman, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.11,400 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,400 per month, Vice Chairman, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.8,400 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,200 per month, Member, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.7,200 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,200 per month, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat will get Rs.7,200 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.800 per month, Up-Pradhan, Gram Panchayat will get Rs.4,800 per month honorarium.
- Member, Gram Panchayat will now get Rs.750 per sitting of the Gram Panchayat with an increase of Rs.250 per sitting.

Rs. 2,356 crore are proposed for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development sector.

116. Speaker Sir, approval of plans for construction of houses will be given on a single portal through AUTODCR starting from 2024-25. If any deficiency is found after uploading the house map and other

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documents on this portal, then the applicant will be able to submit additional information by viewing it online. Through this portal, private professionals will also be authorized to give permissions for residential plots up to 500 square meters.

117. I am happy to announce an increase in the honorarium of Urban Local Bodies representatives as per following:—

- With an increase of Rs.4,000 per month, Mayor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.24,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.3,000 per month, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.18,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,400 per month, Councillor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.8,400 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,700 per month, President, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.10,200 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,400 per month, Vice President, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.8,400 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.700 per month, Councillor, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.4,200 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,400 per month, Pradhan, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.8,400 per month honorarium.

- With an increase of Rs.1,100 per month, Up-Pradhan, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.6,600 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.700 per month, Member, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.4,200 per month honorarium.

118. An Environment Cell will be set up in the Directorate of Urban Development at the State level to streamline and monitor waste management in urban areas.

119. To improve the functioning of urban bodies and for the convenience of the general public, the functioning of urban bodies will be digitalized. For this, a 'State Project Monitoring Unit' will be established, which will prove helpful in improving the functioning of urban bodies with the help of domain experts by online planning, monitoring, implementation and reporting. Under this initiative, various fees and taxes can be collected online in urban areas and various permits and NOCs can be issued online. Under this, the accounts of urban bodies will be digitized. With the help of AGiSAC, asset valuation will be done in all urban bodies.

120. Speaker Sir, I announce to launch a new scheme **"Maharishi Valmiki Kamgar Awas Yojana"** to help the brothers of the Valmiki community for construction of houses. Under this, such sanitation workers of Valmiki community, whose annual income is less than Rs.2.5 lakh and do not have their own house, will be given assistance of Rs.3 lakh to build a house.

Housing

121. I announce to increase the assistance from Rs.1.5 lakh being given for constructing a house to the beneficiaries under the 'Mukhya Mantri Widhwa Evam Ekal Naari Aawas Yojana' to Rs.3 lakh. This assistance will be available to such beneficiaries whose annual income is less than Rs.2.5 lakh.

122. Houses will be allocated to such persons belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/slumdweller in Municipal Corporations Dharamshala, Solan and Shimla; and Municipal Councils Nalagarh and Parwanoo whose annual income is less than Rs.3 lakh. Preference will be given to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC classes, widows, destitute women, divyangs who fulfil the eligibility criteria.

Jal Shakti

123. Speaker Sir, drinking water facility is being provided in the rural areas of the State under Jal-Jeevan Mission and 2 projects funded by New Development Bank (BRICS-NDB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), respectively. It is targeted to complete 4 antifreeze drinking water projects in Kinnaur, Chamba and Lahaul & Spiti in 2024-25 at a cost of Rs.29 crore. 24 drinking water supply schemes funded by NDB, and 186 drinking water schemes funded by ADB, are at various stages of implementation and will be completed within the stipulated time. Through these two projects, 20,663 families will be benefited from Partially Covered (PC) Schemes and 79,282 families will be benefited with the Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC).

124. With the aim of improving the drinking water supply in urban areas, I make the following announcements for 2024-25:—

- The work of drinking water supply schemes with the capacity of 135 Litres Per Capita Per Day (LPCD) will be completed in 4 cities namely Jawali, Hamirpur, Baijnath-Paprola and Ner Chowk, respectively.
- Similarly, the execution of drinking water schemes for Amb and Bhuntar at a cost of Rs.33 crore will be expedited and efforts will be made to complete them by the end of 2024-25.
- Work on drinking water improvement schemes for Nahan, Arki, Nirmand, Palampur and Joginder Nagar at a cost of Rs.112 crore will be started soon.
- In the direction of implementation of 24×7 drinking water supply schemes announced by me in my last budget, work on drinking water supply schemes has been started in Ward No. 6 and 7 of Rampur, Nalagarh and Chamba. And work will start on these schemes soon in other 9 cities.

125. The announcement made in my last budget in the direction of improving the quality of drinking water in Himachal Pradesh has been implemented and after forming the Village Water and Sanitation Committees with the participation of local women and they have been trained. So far, 69 testing labs have been

established, out of which 62 have been accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration. This system will be further strengthened in 2024-25 so that clean and germ-free drinking water is made available to the people of the State.

126. As per the announcement made in the last budget, 37 such areas have been identified for installation of UV system in those drinking water schemes and STPs where water sources are either polluted or have the potential to be so. Necessary steps will be taken to install UV system at the identified sites to provide pure drinking water.

127. The ongoing work on sewerage projects in Gagret, Dalhousie, Chuwari, Rewalsar, Bhota, Santokhgarh, Baijnath-Paprola and Ner Chowk will be accelerated, and efforts will be made to complete them in 2024-25. The construction work of sewerage projects in Rajgarh, Banjar, Chopal, Nerwa and Shahpur will be completed in 2024-25. Apart from the above, construction works of sewerage projects in 16 rural areas approved by NABARD will be awarded in 2024-25. Under the project approved by AFD at a cost of Rs.817 crore, Sewerage Treatment Plants (STP)/Waste Treatment Plants (WTP) have been approved for Manali, Palampur, Nahan, Karsog and Bilaspur along with a drinking water supply scheme for Manali. Of these, the work of Manali sewerage network is in progress and the remaining works will also be started soon.

128. Work on 14 Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes (SMISs) at a cost of Rs.380 crore is in various stages of

execution. About 9,700 hectares of CCA will be created through these schemes. These schemes are approved under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' and will be given pace based on the funds released by the Government of India. Out of the 4 schemes approved under the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana', an amount of about Rs.53 lakh will be made available under Tribal Development Programme to complete the scheme for Labrang Garden Colony and Pooh.

129. The Phina Singh Multipurpose Medium Irrigation Project at a cost of Rs.644 crore was approved in the meeting of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DOWR,RD&GR) held under the chairmanship of the Secretary. It has been recommended for funding under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)'. This project will help in the creation of 4,025 hectares of CCA. Apart from this, 1.88 MW hydropower will be produced after its completion. About Rs.290 crore have already been spent by the State Government from its own resources on this project. The implementation of this project will be accelerated on the basis of funds released by the Centre.

Rs.3,365 crore are proposed for Jal Shakti Vibhag.

130. Speaker Sir, due to the disaster that occurred during excessive rains last year, there has been extensive damage to roads and bridges in the State. Our Government lost no time and started relief and restoration work and within a very short time all the

Roads and
Bridges.

main roads were opened to the public. Within a short period, the damaged roads were restored with the help of 18 Bailey Bridges and 27 ropeways. Through this August House, I heartily thank all the elected public representatives and Government officers and employees who stood day and night with the people of the State and accomplished the restoration work.

131. In the absence of railways and water transport, the State needs a strong road network. During the last 53 years, many new roads have been constructed in the State and many villages are connected through them. At present there are 40,703 Kilometres of motorable roads, 34,055 Kilometres of metalled roads and 2,478 bridges in the State. Out of total 3,615 Gram Panchayats, 3,578 Gram Panchayats have been connected with motorable or jeepable roads. Of the remaining Panchayats, 10 more Panchayats will be connected by motorable roads during 2024-25.

132. Our Government has received approval of Rs.2,643 crore for 254 roads with the total length of 2,683 Kilometres under 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana-III'. Under this scheme, the following works will be completed in 2024-25:—

- ❖ Upgradation of 500 Kilometres of roads.
- ❖ Construction of 325 Kilometres of new roads.
- ❖ Construction of 8 bridges.
- ❖ 15 habitations will be connected by road.

- ❖ Thus, under 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana', 825 Kilometres long roads and 8 bridges will be constructed.
- ❖ Apart from this, cross drainage work on 150 Kilometres long roads will be done under 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana-I and II'.

133. Our Government has set a target to completing 19 works including 13 bridges on 115 Kilometres long National Highways with an expenditure of Rs.631 crore in 2024-25. Apart from this, a proposal will be sent to the Central Government for two-laning and four-laning of National Highways at a cost of Rs.4,490 crore. Among these, the major works on National Highways are as follows:—

- Sainj-Luhri-Aut at a cost of Rs.500 crore.
- Construction of Jalori Pass Tunnel on Sainj-Luhri-Aut National Highway at a cost of Rs.750 crore.
- Nagrota – Bagwan – Ranital at a cost of Rs.200 crore.
- Chamba-Bharmour at a cost of Rs.300 crore.
- Nahan-Kumharhatti at a cost of Rs.500 crore.
- Construction of bridges on various National Highways at a cost of approximately Rs.250 crore.
- Various other works at a cost of about Rs.2,000 crores.

134. During the coming year, 205 Kilometres long new roads, cross drainage work on 305 Kilometres long roads, 425 Kilometres long tarred roads and 27 bridges will be constructed under RIDF through NABARD.

135. The construction work of the following 5 approved roads under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) will be completed in 2024-25:—

- Repair work of damage caused by rain on Jiya-Manikaran road.
- Upgradation of Shahpur - Sihunta - Chuwari road.
- Construction of a bridge connecting Terrace and Sthana on river Beas.
- Upgradation of Baghchhal-Mehre-Barsar road.
- Construction of bridge on Swan River at Pandoga -Tiuri.

136. Speaker Sir, keeping in view environmental protection and cost reduction, waste plastic material will be used for undertaking maintenance work of 230 Kilometres long roads in 2024-25. Apart from this, Calcium Chloride and Brine Solution will be used on high altitude roads so that ice layer does not accumulate on the surface of these roads in winter and possible accidents are avoided.

137. The following roads and related construction works will be completed by our Government in 2024-25:—

- ✓ Construction of total 860 Kilometres long roads.

- ✓ Cross drainage work on 1,067 Kilometres long roads.
- ✓ Metalling and tarring on 1,075 Kilometres long roads.
- ✓ Construction of 57 bridges.
- ✓ Connecting 40 villages of 10 Panchayats by road.

Rs. 4,317 crore are proposed for roads and bridges.

138. Speaker Sir, in view of the changing market conditions, it is very important to make changes in the “Industrial Investment Policy” notified in 2019 so that prospective investors can get all the approvals in the shortest possible time through a single instance. This will encourage investors to invest more. Our Government will bring a new **“Industrial Promotion and Investment Policy, 2024”** in view of the changing markets in 2024-25.

Industry/
private
Investment.

139. There are countless possibilities of self-employment in the industrial sector for the youth of the State. There is a need to encourage the youth in this direction. For this, I announce to bring a new **“Start-up Policy, 2024”** in 2024-25. Under this policy, provision will be made for special incentives for women for innovations. Start-ups initiated by women will be given maximum assistance of Rs.4 lakh for one year.

140. The Industries Sector contributes immensely to the development of the State. The endeavour of my Government is to provide best eco-system to this

sector. My Government had enhanced the Electricity Duty (ED) during last year's calamity to cover the resources required to undertake large scale restoration work. Now, when the situation has improved, I announce that the enhanced Electricity Duty will not be payable by those consumers who were granted relaxation in paying the ED till expiry of the admissible period as per the provisions of the 'Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policy, 2019'.

141. Speaker Sir, many steps have been taken effectively by our Government to curb illegal mining in the State. There is a need to make some changes in the mining policy of the State which is more than 10 years old. I announce that **"Himachal Pradesh Mines and Minerals Policy, 2024"** will be introduced in the State, the main objectives of which will be to stop illegal mining and increase the revenue of the State through scientific mining.

142. Separate standards will be set for fire services to deal with fire accidents due to various reasons in the industrial areas of the State. These norms will, depending on the number and type of industries in an industrial area, lay down SOPs for different measures to deal with fires caused by chemicals, electrical fires and fires caused by other reasons. The norms will also standardize the materials and equipment which include chemical protection suit, foam compound tank, dry chemical powder for dealing with fires caused by different reasons.

143. Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh Industrial Area makes a great contribution in the resources and

employment generation of the State. Necessary infrastructure facilities in this area are necessary for both investors and workers alike. I announce the construction of a road from Sheetalpur to Jagatkhana in this area at a cost of Rs 70 crore. This road will connect 'Medical Device Park' Dherowal with Baddi Industrial Area.

144. Speaker Sir, in 2024-25, e-vehicle charging stations at 17 petrol pumps will be made operational. Apart from it, the 'State Electricity Board' and 'Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.' have been roped in for operationalizing e-vehicle charging stations at 33 more petrol pumps. In addition, 55 other e-vehicle charging stations in the Government sector will be made functional.

Transport

145. After the announcement of phased replacement of diesel buses with electric buses in 2023-24, till now the fleet of electric buses has grown to 110 electric buses and 50 e-taxis. Taking this commitment forward, I announce that in 2024-25, 327 additional diesel buses will be replaced with electric buses. To ensure public participation in this initiative, in the initial phase, priorities have been sought from Hon'ble MLAs to run e-buses on 5 routes in each Legislative Assembly Constituency.

146. Under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start-up Yojana', 10,000 permits will be given to run e-taxis at 40 percent subsidy in 2024-25. Continuing with the efforts to make Himachal a 'Green State', I announce that in 2024-25, all the eligible vehicles of the Forest Department, HRTC, HPTDC and GAD will be replaced with e-vehicles.

147. Pratham Darshan service will be expanded to run buses to religious places. In the first phase, 6 buses have been started from different places for darshan of Shri Ayodhya Dham. In 2024-25, this bus service will also be run from other additional locations.

148. In the year 2024-25, under the 'Vehicle Scraping Policy', “**Vehicle Scraping Facility Centres (VSFCs)**” will be established in the State so that all the 12 districts of the State can avail this facility.

149. I announce that in 2024-25, all vehicles will be mandatorily required to pass the fitness test through Automated Testing Centres, so that there is no human error in declaring the vehicles fit for running.

150. e-challan and e-POS machines will be made available to the officers for online challan for the detected violations of transport rules.

151. Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)/Close Circuit Television (CCTV Cameras) will be provided at all transport barriers so that tax evasion can be stopped and the Government can get additional resources. This system will also help the traffic to run smoothly.

152. The construction work of a 3.2 Kilometres long ropeway at a cost of Rs.272 crore will be started between Bijli Mahadev and Mohal in Kullu on Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). The State Government will receive 50 percent of the profit from the operation of this ropeway.

153. The recent rains which occurred in the State caused heavy damages to Baglamukhi Ropeway, which

is being constructed at a cost of about Rs.54 crore. An amount of more than Rs.5 crore had to be spent for its stabilization. I am happy to announce that after completing the construction work of this ropeway, it will be dedicated to the people of the State this year itself.

154. Our Government will request the Government of India to lay broad gauge rail line from Kalka to Parwanoo for the convenience of the tourists and people of the State. Along with this, a request will also be made to the Government of India to lay the railway line from Jejon to Poliyan. With this, rail transport facility will be available to 'Bulk Drug Pharma Park' being constructed in the State. An expenditure of Rs.10 crore is expected in 2024-25 to conduct survey for these lines.

155. Speaker Sir, with the aim of promoting eco-tourism in the State, 93 Eco Tourism Sites will be outsourced for their operation and management in a phased manner. In the first phase, 13 Eco Tourism Sites have been finalized for outsourcing for which Request for Proposal (RFP) is being given final shape. All these sites will be outsourced in 2024-25.

Forest

156. After the initiative taken by our Government, the permission for scientific silviculture felling of Khair trees has been granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as per working plans. This will not only increase the income of local people but will also motivate them to plant more trees after cutting existing Khair trees. A plan has been prepared to cut about 13,000 Khair trees in 10 Forest Divisions in 2024-25. This will also increase

the revenue of the State. Inspired by this decision of the Hon'ble Court, our Government will also file a petition for permission to cut Chil trees. This will not only generate additional revenue but will also improve the quality of the eco-system services.

157. Taking a step further in the pursuit of a 'Green Himachal', biodiversity parks, nature parks, river side parks will be set-up in the peri-urban and urban areas. These parks shall be designed and developed using eco-friendly materials. The muck sites will also be restored through this intervention.

158. Speaker Sir, I announce to appoint one Van Mitra in all the 2,061 Forest Beats of the State to deal with all forest related matters at the Beat level. The process of their appointment will be completed in 2024-25. These Van Mitras will play an important role in the management of forests with the help of communities.

159. Along with this, I also announce to fill 100 vacant posts of Forest Guards in the Forest Department during 2024-25.

Rs. 834 crore are proposed for Forest Department.

Environment,
Science and
Technology.

160. Speaker Sir, for the Green and overall development and empowerment of the rural population of the State, I announce the launch of the "**Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana**". Under this scheme, in the next 4 years, 2 villages will be selected in each Legislative Assembly Constituency and the Science Postgraduates and Engineering Graduates will be given scholarship for 2 years for research on climate change and environmental protection in those villages.

161. In view of the recent heavy rains and continuous changes in climate, the work of preparing Climate Change Action Plans at the district level will be started from 2024-25. Climate Change Action Plans will be implemented at the Panchayat level.

162. I announce that a Need Assessment Study (NAS) will be initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and the GIZ for mitigating the adverse effects of changing climate for sustainable development of agriculture and horticulture sectors.

163. To stop unscientific and illegal mining in the State, a GIS based App will be started with the help of which the mining activities taking place in the State will be closely monitored on real time basis.

164. A scheme will be started in the State to promote Geographical Indications (GI) through which the GI tagging of commercial products will be done so that the producers can get fair price for their products in the national and international markets.

165. Speaker Sir, I announce the following steps to be taken during 2024-25 in the direction of making the Governance more transparent and effective in the State:—

- ✓ A work plan will be made and rolled out enabling evidence based planning with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics.
- ✓ An 'Online Sewa Portal' will be launched to deliver the already available online citizen

Digitization,
Governance and
Information
Technology.

services to the people of the State more effectively and a mobile app will also be launched.

- ✓ After successful implementation of e-office in Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Directorates, all DC and SP Offices and 253 field offices, the facility of e-signature as well as the facility of online dispatch will be provided in all the offices.
- ✓ To make the CM-Dashboard more effective, various departments will be linked with the Reporting Management Portal so that appropriate decisions are taken at appropriate time based on the latest information received from the departments.
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence will be used in the 'Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp' helpline so that the complaints received can be resolved in the shortest possible time.
- ✓ The DBT Portal developed last year will be linked with the National DBT Portal so that the information of both the Portals can be shared.
- ✓ For expeditious disposal of online applications for 5G connectivity made by investors, the Right of Way (RoW) Portal will be updated with necessary changes.
- ✓ The work of upgradation of the State Data Centre (SDC) will be completed by August, 2024 and latest technology will be used to

protect the data and other information available in it.

- ✓ After the successful implementation of Him Parivar Registry, various citizen services will be integrated with it so that the people of the State can get the benefits of various services in the shortest possible time.

166. Speaker Sir, starting from 2024-25, under 'Megh-Jamabandi' the citizens will be able to get copies of land related records at any time. The facility of fee payment will also be made available on this portal through UPI/Debit Card/Credit Card etc.

Land
Administration,
Reforms
Management

167. Under 'Megh-Charge' module, provision will be made to complete all the processes online for taking loan through Kisan Credit Card. Through this, one will not have to make repeated visits to banks or financial institutions and tehsil offices. By completing all the formalities through this integrated module, the loan can be approved almost instantly.

168. Online payment of stamp duty, registration fee and other charges will be started through 'Megh-Panjikaran Module' to further simplify the property registration process. Similarly, the facility of online mutation will also be provided using 'Megh-Mutation Module'.

169. Description of many land records is available in difficult words. The work of getting these land records translated into various languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution will be completed soon.

170. Speaker Sir, in continuation of the measures to raise additional resources announced by me in the last budget, I make the following announcements:—

- ❖ For the convenience of taxpayers, a 'Mobile App' will be launched in 2024-25 for payment of VAT and other taxes. Using this feature, taxpayers will be able to make online tax payments.
- ❖ 'Kardaata Samvaad Abhiyaan' will be started with the aim of taking feedback from various taxpayers at important industrial and business Centres located in the State and getting information about the problems faced by them. This will help in making the taxation and excise system of the State simpler and more transparent.

171. Speaker Sir, Construction work will be carried out to provide residential facilities for the Police staff within the premises of Police Stations located in urban areas or in close vicinity of Police Stations at a cost of Rs.50 crore in 2024-25.

172. Speaker Sir, there has been no increase in the diet money of police personnel for a long time. I am happy to announce almost 5 times increase in the diet money to police personnel from the current level of Rs.210 to Rs.1,000. The Police Personnel will get a benefit of more than Rs.9,000 per annum. About 18,000 police personnel will benefit from this. This will entail an expenditure of more than Rs.16 crore per annum.

173. In the next 5 years, 1 percent of the population of the State will be brought under the 'Civil Defence Scheme'. This initiative will prove to be very helpful in disaster relief work in the eventuality of natural disaster.

174. To bring transparency in the process of issuing or withdrawing NOC 'Himachal Pradesh Fire Fighting Services Rules' will be notified.

175. I announce the opening of New sub-fire stations at Changar Baroh in Kangra; Kotli and Ladbhadol in Mandi and upgradation of fire post at Theog to fire sub station in 2024-25. Apart from this, I also announce the opening of fire units in Nirmand, Kunihar and Ubadesh (Kotkhai), Chhota Bhangal and Chuhar Valley of Kangra.

176. With an aim of encouraging the youth of the State to actively participate in sports, a New Sports Policy (NSP) will be brought out in 2024-25. Under this, I am happy to announce the following:—

Youth Services
and Sports.

- The prize money for winning a gold medal in an individual event in the Olympic Games will be increased from Rs.3 crore to Rs.5 crore, for a silver medal from Rs.2 crore to Rs.3 crore and for a bronze medal from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore.
- The prize money for winning gold medal in individual event in Asian Games will be increased from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.4 crore, for silver medal from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.2.5 crore and for bronze medal from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.1.5 crore.

- The prize money for winning gold medal in individual event in Commonwealth Games will be increased from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.3 crore, for silver medal from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.2 crore and for bronze medal from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.1 crore. Will be done.
- In case of Himachali players being part of the winning team in a team event, they will be given the above mentioned prize money in proportion of the representation.
- Players will be given AC 3 Tier fare to participate in sports events outside the State up to a distance of 200 kilometres, and for going to places more than 200 kilometres away, economy class air fare will be given.
- The number of sports included under 3 percent sports quota for various posts in in the Government departments will be increased from the present 43.
- After increasing the diet money given to players for various levels of sports events, I announce the following:—
 - All the players up to Elementary Education will be given Rs.250 per day for participating in games at any level held within the State.
 - All other players will be given Rs.400 per day for participating in the games at any level held within the State.
 - All the players will be given equal amount of Rs.500 per day for

participating in games held outside the State.

- All the players living in sports hostels of the State will be given diet money of Rs.250 and Rs.400 as above.

177. Speaker Sir, I announce to start the construction work of the following sports complexes in 2024-25:—

- Construction of an indoor stadium with modern facilities in Hamirpur.
- Construction of an indoor stadium in Panjoa, Una.
- Construction of an Indoor Sports Stadium for Manali in Bandrol.
- Construction of Indoor Stadium with swimming pool facility in Rehan.
- Construction of Indoor Stadium with swimming pool in Dehra.
- Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Kharidi, Nadaun.
- Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Kasumpati.
- Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Jaisinghpur.
- Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Dhalli Bypass.

178. Speaker Sir, with the objective of making Himachal Pradesh one of the favourite destinations for film shooting and other related activities, 'Himachal Pradesh Film Policy, 2024' will be implemented from 2024-25. Under this, a 'Film Development Council' will

Information
and Public
Relation.

be formed at the State level and a 'Film Facilitation Cell' will be established in the Information and Public Relations Department. A dedicated web portal will be set up to submit online applications and grant permissions for shooting of films.

179. To effectively disseminate and publicize Government schemes and development policies through various digital platforms, various web channels, news websites and social media influencers, 'Digital Media Policy, 2024' will be implemented.

180. Information related to Government programs and activities will be compiled through 'Himsoochana Kosh', so that the information required for publication and press can be retrieved from a single platform and press notes or articles can be printed.

Sanik welfare

181. Speaker Sir, Our Government will always be indebted to about 3,00,000 ex-servicemen, serving soldiers, war widows and gallantry award winners of the State for their services and sacrifices during times of war and peace.

182. I announce that the amount of financial assistance given to ex-servicemen above the age of 60 years who do not get any other pension will be increased from Rs.3,000 to Rs.5,000 per month.

183. Our Government will ensure that 15 percent of the posts reserved for ex-servicemen in various departments are filled-up on priority in 2024-25.

Cooperation

184. Speaker Sir, in continuation of the announcement made in my last budget for

computerization of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), the work of linking them with Cooperative Banks, Cooperative Department and National Database is in progress and it will be completed within the stipulated time limit of 2027. Moving forward in this direction, online registration of all cooperative societies is already being done.

185. The para-workers play an important role in implementation of different schemes in the State. I announce an increase in the honourarium of these para-workers as follows:—

Increase in
Honourarium.

- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Anganwari Workers will get Rs.10,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.400 per month, Mini Anganwari Workers will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.300 per month, Anganwari Sahayikas will get Rs.5,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.300 per month, Asha Workers will get Rs.5,500 per month honorarium.
- Honorarium of Silai Teachers will increase by Rs.500 per month.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Mid-Day Meal Workers will get Rs.4,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.600 per month, Jal Rakshak (Education Department) will get Rs.5,000 per month honorarium.

- With an increase of Rs.300 per month, Water Guards will get Rs.5,300 per month honorarium.
- With the increase of Rs.600 per month, the recently appointed Multi-Purpose Workers of Jal Shakti Vibhag will get Rs.5,000 per month.
- With an increase of Rs.300 per month, Para Fitters and Pump Operators will get Rs.6,300 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.1,000 per month, Panchayat Chowkidar will get Rs.8,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.300 per month, Revenue Chowkidars will get Rs.5,800 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Revenue Lambardaar will get Rs.4,200 per month honorarium.
- Rs.1,900 per month will be increased in the honorarium of SMC teachers.
- The IT teachers will get an increase of Rs.1,900 per month.
- Special Police Officer (SPOs) will get an increase of Rs.500 per month.

MLA Priorities

186. Speaker Sir, like every year, I make the following announcements on the basis of the suggestions that came forward during my meeting with the Hon'ble MLAs:—

- ✓ The MLA priority schemes of Shimla Legislative Assembly Constituency are not eligible for approval of NABARD under its

RIDF as it is an urban area. The same problem is also going to arise in the Legislative Assembly Constituencies falling in Dharamshala, Mandi, Solan and Palampur Municipal Corporation areas. For these five Legislative Assembly Constituencies, I announce to get the MLA Priority schemes of these urban areas funded through the National Housing Bank under Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF).

- ✓ In line with our Government's resolve for 'Vayvastha Parivartan', I also announce a change in the composition of MLA priority schemes from the financial year 2024-25. Now the Honourable MLAs will give priority for three really new schemes of roads, bridges, drinking water supply schemes or minor irrigation/sewerage schemes. Apart from this, one of the above priorities can be given related to the maintenance of any previously constructed schemes in these sectors. The fifth priority will be related to running electric buses on the existing routes of HRTC and necessary charging stations for running them.
- ✓ Provision has been made under the Vidhayak Kashetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana' to replace the overhanging electrical cables and for completion of incomplete 'Mukhya Mantri Lok Bhawans'. Apart from this, as per the guidelines of 'Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana', the Hon'ble MLAs can make recommendations for construction of houses for any category of beneficiaries under the scheme.

- ✓ I also announce to revise the current limit for MLA priorities from Rs.175 crore to Rs.195 crore with an increase of Rs.20 crore. To take the state forward on the path of green development, out of the increased limit of Rs.20 crore, the priorities will be related to running the electric buses and charging stations.
- ✓ MLA Discretionary Grant (DG) will be increased from Rs.13 lakh to Rs.14 lakh per Legislative Assembly Constituency.
- ✓ The annual allocation of funds under 'Vidhayak Kshetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana' will be increased from Rs.2 crore 10 Lakh to Rs.2 crore 20 Lakh per Legislative Assembly Constituency.

187. Speaker Sir, the public representatives are under tremendous pressure for starting capital works which have financial implications much more than the available resources. In the process new works start every year whereas already ongoing works compete with one another for resources. All the elected representatives would agree with me that the ongoing incomplete works need to be given priority. I announce that at least Rs.1,000 crore will be spent during 2024-25 for completion of ongoing works with the emphasis on those works which are near completion. This is for the first time in the history of the State that importance is being given for completion of ongoing works.

Employees
Welfare.

188. Speaker Sir, our Government appreciates the important contribution of Government employees and pensioners in the development of the State. Our Government is sensitive to the need to pay arrears of

their increased salaries. Employees and pensioners are also aware of the precarious financial situation that the present Government inherited from the previous Government. For decades, Himachal Government has been following the pay scales of Punjab Government. Till now the Punjab Government has not paid the arrears of its employees and pensioners. Our Government strongly believes that with the cooperation of the employees, the financial condition of the State will soon improve.

189. Despite difficult fiscal situation, I make the following announcements:—

- Payment of arrears related to salary and pension of all employees and pensioners will be started in a phased manner starting from 1st March, 2024.
- Payment of arrears related to leave encashment and gratuity in respect of employees retired between 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2021, will be started in a phased manner starting from 1st March, 2024.
- I also announce that the Dearness Allowance (DA) instalment of 4 percent will be released from 1st April, 2024. Approximately Rs.580 crore will be spent annually on this.
- Till now the employees of the state can avail the All India Leave Travel Concession (LTC) only once at the end of their service period. I am happy to announce that after 1st April,

2024, the employees of the State will be able to avail the benefit of LTC at least twice during their service.

- Daily wagers will get Rs.400 per day with an increase of Rs.25.
- With above increase, the outsourced workers will get minimum wages of Rs.12,000 per month.
- Panchayat Veterinary Assistant will now get Rs.7,500 with an increase of 500 per month.

Our Government strongly believes that with the cooperation of the employees, the financial condition of the State will soon improve.

Budget
Estimates.

190. Speaker Sir, now, I come to the Revised Estimates for 2023-24. According to the revised estimates for the year 2023-24, the total revenue receipts are Rs.40,446 crore. According to the revised estimates of 2023-24, the total revenue expenditure is estimated to be Rs.45,926 crore. According to the revised estimates for 2023-24, the revenue deficit of Rs.5,480 crore is estimated.

191. Speaker Sir, I am presenting a budget of Rs.58,444 crore for the year 2024-25.

192. Revenue receipts in the year 2024-25 are estimated at Rs.42,153 crore and total revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs.46,667 crore. Thus, the total revenue loss is estimated at Rs.4,514 crore. The fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs.10,784 crore which is 4.75 percent of the State's gross domestic product.

193. According to the budget of 2024-25, out of every Rs.100 expenditure, Rs.25 will be on salaries, Rs.17 on pension, Rs.11 on interest payment, Rs.9 on loan repayment, Rs.10 on grants for autonomous institutions, while the remaining Rs.28 Expenditure will be spent on other activities including capital works. Full details of next year's Budget are available in the detailed Budget documents being presented in this august House. Apart from this, FRBM Statement is also being presented along with the budget.

194. Speaker Sir, the main points of this budget address are shown in the Annexure.

Speaker Sir, with this I present this budget for the approval of the Honourable House.

Jai Hind – Jai Himachal

Budget Highlights

Main Points of Budget:-

- ❖ Budget size proposed as Rs.58,444 crore.
- ❖ During 2023-24:-
 - State Economy is expected to grow at 7.1 percent.
 - Per Capita Income is estimated as Rs.2,35,199.
 - State Gross Domestic Product estimated as Rs.2,07,430 crore.
- ❖ 'Self-reliant Himachal'
- ❖ Prosperous Farmer Himachal
- ❖ Green and Clean Himachal
- ❖ Electricity State Himachal
- ❖ Tourism State Himachal
- ❖ Skilled and Innovative Himachal
- ❖ Healthy and Educated Himachal
- ❖ Investor Friendly Himachal
- ❖ Drug Free Himachal
- ❖ Illegal Mining Free Himachal
- ❖ Prosperous Himachal

1. Prosperous Farmer Himachal

- ✓ Making farmers 'Self-reliant' by creating self employment and employment opportunities through natural farming.
- ✓ 36,000 farmers adopting the natural farming.
- ✓ 20 quintals of naturally grown grains per family will be procured by the Government at the MSP of Rs.40 per kg and maize at the rate of Rs.30 per kg.

- ✓ equitable development of 2,500 agricultural clusters over a period of 3 to 5 years under 'Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Mission' by promoting high value crops.
- ✓ A detailed action plan will be prepared to promote the production of coarse grains in the State.
- ✓ New mandis at Mehndali and Shilaru in Shimla district and Bandrol in Kullu district.
- ✓ Paonta Sahib, Khairi, Ghanduri and Nauhradhar in Sirmaur; Chauribihal, Patlikuhal and Khegsu in Kullu; Takoli and Kangni in Mandi; Jasur, Passu and Palampur in Kangra; and, Parwanoo, Kunihar and Waknaghat mandis in Solan will be upgraded.
- ✓ Chat Bot and AI based tools will be provided on the web enabled agriculture portal and mobile app will be launched enabling access to land records.
- ✓ A '**Centre of Excellence for Vegetable Nursery Production**' will be established.
- ✓ Minimum support price from the current Rs.38 per litre to Rs.45 per litre; and, from Rs.47 to Rs.55 per litre, respectively with effect from 1st April, 2024.
- ✓ '**Fully Automated Milk and Milk Products Plant**' at Dhagwar in Kangra.
- ✓ 'Milk Processing Plants' with modern technology will be established in Una and Hamirpur.
- ✓ 200 refrigerated milk vans will be provided to the local youth at a subsidy of 50 percent for transporting the milk.
- ✓ '**Artificial Insemination Training Centre**' at Darlaghat in Solan district.
- ✓ From 1st April, 2024, the fees charged by APMC from milk producing societies will be waived-off.

- ✓ A new scheme “**Bhed Bakri Paalak Protsahan Yojana**” for FMD Vaccine, deworming medicine and other medicines for sheep and goats.
- ✓ Task Force will give suggestions to construct new and maintain and operate the existing Cow-Sanctuaries and Gau-Sadans.
- ✓ An increase in financial assistance of Rs.700 to Rs.1,200 per cow per month for dependent cows in the private Gaushalas.
- ✓ A '**Centre of Excellence in Horticulture**' will be established at a cost of Rs.12 crore which will act as 'One Stop Resource Centre'.
- ✓ A '**Foundation Block**' for mother trees/bud wood banks will be set up for the promotion of guava, lemon and other sub-tropical fruits.
- ✓ Use of universal carton will be started from the apple season for 2024.
- ✓ Fishermen will be given financial assistance for construction of new fishing ponds in an area of 20 hectares at a subsidy of 80 percent.
- ✓ A new 'Centre of Excellence' having a 'Carp Fish Farm' will be established in Hamirpur District.
- ✓ 10 new large 'Biofloc Fish Production' ponds and 10 new small scale 'Biofloc Fish Production' units will be established.
- ✓ Three new 'Feed Mills' will be established.
- ✓ 150 new trout fish production units and two new trout hatcheries will be established.

2. Green, Clean and Energy State Himachal

- ✓ Largest 'Solar Power Project' with 32 MW capacity located at Pekhubella will be commissioned by the end of March, 2024.
- ✓ The 'Aghlor Solar Power Project' with an installed capacity of 10 MW in Una will be ready for commissioning by June, 2024.

- ✓ Bhanjal (Una) Solar Power Project with an installed capacity of 5 MW will be dedicated to the people of the State by September, 2024.
- ✓ The implementation of 'Rajiv Gandhi Start-up Yojana', envisaging the installation of solar panels ranging from 100 to 500 KW on the owned land at 45 percent subsidy will be given pace.
- ✓ Grid connected Solar Roof Top Plants and 'Solar Water Heating System' will be installed in the Baal-Baalika Aashrams and old age homes in the State.
- ✓ A detailed action plan will be implemented across the State under Re-vamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.
- ✓ The work on 4 transmission lines and 6 Extra High Voltage (EHV) sub-stations will be completed for Efficient Transmission and Distribution Network along with robust power generation.
- ✓ 327 additional diesel buses will be replaced with electric buses.
- ✓ Under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start-up Yojana', 10,000 permits will be given to run e-taxis at 40 percent subsidy.
- ✓ Eligible vehicles of the Forest Department, HRTC, HPTDC and GAD will be replaced with e-vehicles.
- ✓ Under the 'Vehicle Scraping Policy', **“Vehicle Scrapping Facility Centres (VSFCs)”** will be established.
- ✓ The pursuit of a 'Green Himachal', biodiversity parks, nature parks, river side parks will be set-up.
- ✓ For the Green and overall development and empowerment of the rural population of the State, I announce the launch of the **“Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana”**
- ✓ a Need Assessment Study (NAS) will be initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and the GIZ for mitigating the adverse effects of changing climate for sustainable development of agriculture and horticulture sectors.

- ✓ All the processes related to Forest Clearances were simplified to speed up the pace of development works by constituting district level committees.

3. Tourism State Himachal

- ✓ the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan will be finalized soon and the land acquisition work will be started for expansion of Gaggal Airport.
- ✓ Out of the total 16 proposed heliports in the State, 9 heliports viz. Jaskot in Hamirpur; Rakkar and Palampur in Kangra; Sultanpur in Chamba; Aaloo Ground, Manali in Kullu; Sharbo in Kinnaur; and, Jispa, Sissu and Rangrik in Lahaul-Spiti will be developed in the first phase
- ✓ Chandratal, Kaza and Tandi in Lahaul-Spiti and Rackchham and Nako – Chango – Khab in Kinnaur will be developed as tourists destinations.
- ✓ Sky Walk Bridge will be constructed in the famous tourist place Haasan Valley near Kufri.
- ✓ All the Home Stay Units located in the State will be brought under the ambit of the 'Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development and Registration Act'.
- ✓ A master plan has been prepared for the development and management of Pong Dam under Swadesh Darshan-2.
- ✓ Construction work of a 3.2 Kilometres long ropeway at a cost of Rs.272 crore will be started between Bijli Mahadev and Mohal in Kullu.
- ✓ Broad gauge rail line from Kalka to Parwanoo for the convenience of the tourists and people of the State.

4. Healthy, Educated, Skilled and Innovative Himachal

- ✓ “**State Cancer Institute**” to be established in in ‘Dr. Radhakrishnan Medical College, Hamirpur’ with the latest State of the Art diagnostic and treatment facilities.

- ✓ To provide the facility of chemotherapy and Palliative Care to the patients suffering from cancer in the State, **“Cancer Day Care Centres”** will be established in the district hospitals and selected ‘Adarsh Swasthya Kendras’.
- ✓ A Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine will be set up at a cost of Rs.21 crore at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla.
- ✓ Rs. 1 crore per Centre will be made available for procuring machinery and equipment to be provided in 69 ‘Adarsh Swasthya Kendras’.
- ✓ Pace be given to all the works in progress in PGI Satellite Centre, Una Centre.
- ✓ ‘Hospital Management Information Service (HMIS)’ will be established in 53 health institutions of the State.
- ✓ **“State level Scrub Typhus Research Unit”** will be established.
- ✓ ‘Lactation Management Centres’ will be established in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda and Kamla Nehru Hospital, Shimla.
- ✓ One ‘Integrated Public Health Lab’ with all test facilities will be established in each district.
- ✓ The General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) school in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda will be upgraded to Nursing College.
- ✓ A ‘Guest Worker Screening Project’ will be started for screening of migrant workers.
- ✓ Necessary reforms with the help of national level domain experts in ‘HIMCARE’ and ‘SAHARA’.
- ✓ Quality class-rooms with appropriate size, smart class-rooms with smart boards, audio-visual teaching aids, learning software, proper seating facilities; full strength of teachers, playground, clean toilets along with other facilities will be provided.

- ✓ 'National Education Policy', 5+3+3+4 education system will be implemented at the school level in the State, which will also include a three year pre-school 'Baal Vaatika' curriculum.
- ✓ Educational institutions will be developed as 'Institution of Excellence (IOE)' in a phased manner.
- ✓ Start **"Apna Vidyalaya-Mera Vidyalaya-Mera Samman"** scheme for better coordination between schools and society and to increase community participation.
- ✓ In every Sub-Division, the Sub-Divisional Officers will have to compulsorily organize a review meeting of all the primary schools once in a month by rotation.
- ✓ Annual ranking of all the educational institutions of the State and the system of giving 'Performance Based Grant' to them will be started.
- ✓ To develop the culture of reading and teaching, a massive public campaign in the name of **"Padho Himachal"** will be started.
- ✓ To make the training of teachers more result oriented, changes will be made in the rules of District Institute of Education Training (DIETs) and State Council of Educational Research (SCERT) and their functioning will be re-oriented to make them effective. Similarly, State Institute of Educational Management and Training (SIEMAT) will be reorganized and made functional.
- ✓ Children of Government schools will be provided with a safe and clean water bottle.
- ✓ Courses on the history and culture of Himachal, Indian Constitution, health, and other subjects of general knowledge will be started compulsorily from class five.
- ✓ Construction of a library and a reading room with modern facilities each at every district and sub-divisional headquarters and Gram Panchayats.

- ✓ Start the construction work of five Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding Schools, namely Lahdoo and Nagrota Bagwan (Kangra), Amlehar and Bhoranj (Hamirpur), and Sanghnai (Una).
- ✓ More private sector employers will be added to EEMIS portal of the Labour and Employment Department.

5. Investor Friendly Himachal

- ✓ Targeted to complete 4 antifreeze drinking water projects in Kinnaur, Chamba and Lahaul & Spiti.
- ✓ The work of drinking water supply schemes with the capacity of 135 Litres Per Capita Per Day (LPCD) will be completed in Jawali, Hamirpur, Baijnath-Paprola and Ner Chowk.
- ✓ Work on drinking water improvement schemes for Nahan, Arki, Nirmand, Palampur and Joginder Nagar will be started soon.
- ✓ Upgradation of 500 Kilometres of roads and Construction of 325 Kilometres of new roads and 8 bridges.
- ✓ 15 habitations will be connected by road.
- ✓ 205 Kilometres long new roads, cross drainage work on 305 Kilometres long roads, 425 Kilometres long tarred roads and 27 bridges will be constructed under RIDF through NABARD.
- ✓ Repair work of damage caused by rain on Jiya-Manikaran road, Upgradation of Shahpur - Sihunta - Chuwari road, Construction of a bridge connecting Terrace and Sthana on river Beas, Upgradation of Baghchhal-Mehre-Barsar road, Construction of bridge on Swan River at Pandoga Tiuri under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) will be completed.
- ✓ Calcium Chloride and Brine Solution will be used on high altitude roads so that ice layer does not accumulate on the surface of these roads in winter and possible accidents are avoided.
- ✓ **“Industrial Promotion and Investment Policy, 2024”** will be brought out.
- ✓ **“Start-up Policy, 2024”** will be brought out in 2024-25.

- ✓ The enhanced Electricity Duty will not be payable by those consumers who were granted relaxation in paying the ED till expiry of the admissible period as per the provisions of the 'Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policy, 2019'.
- ✓ **"Himachal Pradesh Mines and Minerals Policy, 2024"** will be introduced.
- ✓ Road from Sheetalpur to Jagatkhana in this area at a cost of Rs.70 crore will be constructed.
- ✓ 'Himachal Pradesh Film Policy, 2024' will be implemented from 2024-25.
- ✓ 'Film Facilitation Cell' will be established in the Information and Public Relations Department.
- ✓ A dedicated web portal will be set up to submit online applications and grant permissions for shooting of films.
- ✓ The MLA Priority schemes of 5 urban areas to be funded through the National Housing Bank under Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF).

6. Drug Free Himachal

- ✓ **"Model Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Centre"** will be established in Kandaghat.
- ✓ An 'effective monitoring and reporting system' starting from sub-division level right up to State level with clear cut responsibilities.
- ✓ Construction of an indoor stadium with modern facilities in Hamirpur.
- ✓ Construction of an indoor stadium in Panjoa, Una.
- ✓ Construction of an Indoor Sports Stadium for Manali in Bandrol.
- ✓ Construction of Indoor Stadium with swimming pool facility in Rehan.
- ✓ Construction of Indoor Stadium with swimming pool in Dehra.

- ✓ Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Kharidi, Nadaun.
- ✓ Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Kasumpati.
- ✓ Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Jaisinghpur.
- ✓ Construction of Indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex at Dhalli Bypass.
- ✓ The prize money for winning a gold medal in an individual event in the Olympic Games is Rs.5 crore, for a silver medal it is Rs.3 crore and for a bronze medal it is Rs.2 crore.
- ✓ The prize money for winning gold medal in individual event in Asian Games will be Rs.4 crore, for silver medal it will be Rs.2.5 crore and for bronze medal it will be Rs.1.5 crore.
- ✓ The prize money for winning gold medal in individual event in the Commonwealth Games will be Rs.3 crore, for silver medal it will be Rs.2 crore and for bronze medal it will be Rs.1 crore.
- ✓ Based on the medals received by the winning Himachali players in team events, the above prize money will be given to each player in equal proportion to the representation.
- ✓ 3 Tier fare for players who participate in sports events outside the State up to a distance of 200 kms and economy class air fare for traveling to places beyond 200 kms.
- ✓ The number of existing 43 sports included under 3 percent sports quota will be increased to give excellent players various posts in government departments.
- ✓ Diet money of Rs.250 per day will be given to primary education level players for participating in sports held in the State.
- ✓ Diet money of Rs.400 per day to all other players for participating in the games being held in the State.

- ✓ Diet money of Rs.500 per day is given to all the players for participating in games held outside the State.
- ✓ All the players staying in the sports hostels of the State will be given diet money of Rs.250 and Rs.400 as above.

7. Illegal Mining Free Himachal

- ✓ Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)/Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras will be provided at all transport barriers so that tax evasion can be eliminated and the government can get additional resources.
- ✓ Introduction of 'mobile app' for payment of VAT and other taxes for the convenience of taxpayers.
- ✓ 'Kardaata Samvaad Abhiyaan' will be started with the aim of taking feedback from various taxpayers at important industrial and business centers located in the state and getting information about the problems faced by them.
- ✓ GIS Based App to be launched aimed at curbing illegal and illegal activities.

8. Prosperous and Inclusive Himachal

- ✓ 40,000 new eligible beneficiaries of old age, widow, single woman, disabled, leprosy patients and transgender pension are included in this scheme.
- ✓ Establishment of a **“Centre of Excellence for Education of Divyangjans”** in Kandaghat for higher education of disabled people. In this, financial assistance will be provided for rent for accommodation for eligible disabled children including residential facilities, play ground and all other facilities.
- ✓ Residential facilities, play grounds and all other facilities for disabled children in the age group of 0-27 years.
- ✓ **“Institute for Children with Special Disabilities (ICSA, Dhalli)”** to be shifted to **“Centre of Excellence for Education of Divyangjans”**.

- ✓ New scheme “**Mukhya Mantri Sukh Arogya Yojana**” started. Under this, free medical facility is provided to all the elderly people above 70 years of age in the state who are not paying income tax.
- ✓ A new scheme “**Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Shiksha Yojana**” started. Under this, the state government will bear the expenses on the education of children up to 27 years of age of all such widows in the state.
- ✓ Rs 1,000 per month will be given in the account of all eligible children of widows, destitutes, divorced and disabled parents till they attain the age of 18 years.
- ✓ According to the market demand for Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Other Backward Classes, etc., GST, Tally, Artificial Intelligence, Data Management, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, Auto-CAD will be introduced.
- ✓ New scheme “Maharishi Valmiki Kamgar Awas Yojana” started for the brothers and workers of Valmiki community to help them in construction of houses.
- ✓ Increase in MGNREGA daily wage by Rs.60. Widow, Single/ Destitute/Divyang Women MGNREGA Workers will be given assistance up to Rs.3 lakh to build houses.
- ✓ Under “Mukhya Mantri Vidhwa Evam Ekal Nari Awas Yojana”, the amount of assistance increased to Rs.3 lakh.
- ✓ 363 houses will be allotted to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/slumdweller in Municipal Corporation Dharamshala, Solan and Shimla and Municipal Council Nalagarh and Parwanoo, whose annual income is less than Rs.3 lakh.
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence (AI) along with data analytics will be started for evidence based policy formulation.
- ✓ Amendments in the Right of Way (RoW) Portal for expeditious disposal of online applications for 5G connectivity made by investors.

- ✓ The work of upgradation of State Data Centre (SDC) will be completed by August, 2024.
- ✓ After successful implementation of Him Parivar Registry, various citizen services will be integrated with it.
- ✓ For online challan, e-Challan and e-POS Machines will be made available to the departmental officers.

9. Welfare of Employees, Para-workers, MGNREGA Workers and others

- ✓ Payment of arrears related to salary and pension of employees and pensioners will start in a phased manner from 1st March, 2024.
- ✓ Payment of arrears related to leave encashment and gratuity in respect of employees retired between 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2021, will start in a phased manner from 1st March, 2024.
- ✓ Installment of dearness allowance at the rate of 4 percent from 1st April, 2024.
- ✓ After April 1, 2024, employees of the state will get the facility of LTC at least twice during their service period.
- ✓ Daily wage earners will get Rs.400 per day with an increase of Rs.25.
- ✓ Outsourced workers will now get a minimum of Rs.12,000 per month.
- ✓ The salary of Panchayat Veterinary Assistant will be increased to Rs.7,500.
- ✓ With increased honorarium, now Rs.10,000 monthly to Anganwadi workers, Rs.7,000 to Mini Anganwadi workers, Rs.5,500 to Anganwadi Sahayika, Rs.5,500 to Asha worker, Rs.4,500 to Mid Day Meal Workers, Rs.5,000 to Water Carrier (Education Department). , Rs.5,300 to Jal Rakshak, Rs.5,000 to Multi Purpose Workers of Jal Shakti Vibhag, Rs.6,300 to Para Fitter and Pump-Operator, Rs.400 per day wage to daily wage

earners with an increase of Rs.25, minimum wage to outsourced workers now Rs.12,000, Panchayat Chowkidar will get Rs.8,000, a Revenue Chowkidar will get Rs.5,800, a Revenue Lambardar will get Rs.4,200 per month. With this, there will be an increase of Rs.500 per month in the honorarium of sewing teachers, Rs.1,900 per month in the honorarium of IT teachers, Rs.1,900 per month for SMC teachers and Rs.500 per month for SPOs.

- ✓ In Panchayati Raj institutions, the increase in honorarium of Chairman Zila Parishad is Rs.4,000, Vice Chairman is Rs.3,000, Member Zila Parishad is Rs.1,300, Chairman, Panchayat Samiti is Rs.1,900, Vice Chairman Panchayat Samiti is Rs.1,400, Member, Panchayat Samiti is Rs.1,200 per month, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat is Rs.1,200, UP-Pradhan Gram Panchayat is Rs.800 per month and increase of Rs.250 is in the honorarium received per meeting by the member Gram Panchayat.
- ✓ In local municipal bodies, the increase in the honorarium of the Mayor is Rs.4,000, of the Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation is Rs.3,000, of the Councilor Municipal Corporation is Rs.1,400, of the Chairman Municipal Council is Rs.1,700, of the Vice Chairman Municipal Council is Rs.1,400, of the Councilor Municipal Council is Rs.700, of the Pradhan Nagar Panchayat is Rs.1,400, of the Up-Pradhan Nagar Panchayat , Rs.1,100, and of Member Nagar Panchayat is Rs.700.
- ✓ Appointment of one Van Mitra in all 2,061 forest beats.
- ✓ Recruitment for 100 vacant posts of Forests Guards in Forest Department.
- ✓ Diet money of police personnel increased to Rs.1,000.

10. Others

- ✓ Fitness mandatory for all vehicles through Automated Testing Centres.
- ✓ After completing the construction work of Baglamukhi Ropeway, it will be dedicated to the people of the State.

- ✓ Plan to cut about 13 thousand Khair trees in 10 Forest Divisions. This will also increase the revenue of the state.
- ✓ Will also file a petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to cut Chil trees. This will not only generate additional revenue but will also improve the quality of the Eco-System Services.
- ✓ The work of getting the land records translated into various languages listed in Schedule III of the Constitution will start soon.
- ✓ Residential facilities for police staff working in the premises or in the vicinity of police stations located in urban areas.
- ✓ Opening of new sub fire station at Changar Baroh in Kangra, fire post at Kotli and Ladbhadol in Mandi and upgradation of sub fire station at Theog to fire station.
- ✓ Fire fighting units will open in Nirmand, Kunihar and Ubadesh (Kotkhai), Chhota Bhangal and Chuhar Valley of Kangra.
- ✓ The current limit of financial limit for MLA priorities schemes will be increased from Rs.175 crore to Rs.195 crore.
- ✓ 'MLA Discretionary Grant' will be increased from Rs.13 lakh to Rs.14 lakh per assembly constituency.
- ✓ Under 'Vidhayak Kshetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana', the amount per assembly constituency is Rs.2 crore 20 lakh.
- ✓ In 2024-25, Rs.1,000 crore will be spent on works which are near completion.
