

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. With your permission, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 2018-19.

At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks from the depth of my heart to the people of Himachal Pradesh for giving us a decisive mandate in the Vidhan Sabha elections held in November, 2017. The people of Himachal Pradesh have reposed full faith in the progressive policies and programmes of the Bhartiya Janta Party. This positive turnaround has been possible under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi Ji and dynamic President of Bhartiya Janta Party, Sh. Amit Shah Ji. This is my first budget as Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. I heartily thank people of Himachal Pradesh for blessing me to reach this post. I also thank the people of Seraj from the core of my heart for electing me continuously for the fifth time as M.L.A., to serve the State. I would like to say;

“मुझे उँचाईयों पर देख कर, हैरान हैं कुछ लोग ।
पर उन्होंने, मेरे पैरों के छाले नहीं देखे ।।”

2. I assure the people of Himachal that our Government shall function with full dedication, following the philosophy of “**Sab ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas**”. We have adopted the BJP

‘Drishtipatra’ as the policy document to guide the development policies of the present Government.

On assumption of office, our first decision was to lower the age from 80 years to 70 years for providing old age pension to all, without any income limit, who are not getting any other pension. This decision will benefit around 1.30 lakh senior citizens in this age group and they will get ₹195 crore as annual old age pension.

3. Himachal has always occupied a special place in the heart of BJP leadership at the national level. The UPA Government devolved ₹ 28,552 crore from the Union Budget of 2012-13 to 2014-15 in three years to Himachal whereas, NDA Government devolved ₹ 46,793 crore from 2015-16 to 2017-18 budget. This clearly shows the love and affection of our beloved Prime Minister toward the people of Himachal Pradesh.

I would also like to inform this August House that 14th Finance Commission recommended that there will be no distinction between the Special Category States and General Category States for devolution of funds. However, the Union Government led by Modiji, decided to give 90:10 funding pattern to Hill States under all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes vide its order dated 28th October, 2015. Earlier, during UPA Government, we were getting 65 percent grant under SSA, 75 percent under RMSA, 50 percent grant under NRDWP, and 50 percent under Special Nutrition Programme

of ICDS etc. Now, we are uniformly getting 90 percent grant under all these CSS. We are grateful to the Union Government for above special dispensation to Himachal Pradesh.

4. Speaker Sir, the Central Government led by Sh. Modi ji, not only provided liberal financial assistance to Himachal, it also provided an impetus to the development process in the State through direct interventions. The Union Government has approved 69 National Highways for Himachal Pradesh, assistance of ₹ 782 crore for 221 rural roads and bridges in current financial year, approval for establishing AIIMS in Bilaspur and medical colleges in Chamba, Nahan and Hamirpur, assistance of ₹ 29 crore for establishing six trauma centres, air services under UDAAN and assistance for establishing super speciality block and tertiary care centre at IGMCH Shimla are some of the gifts for which people of Himachal Pradesh will always be grateful to the Central Government.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Modi ji for helping this tiny hill State with all the generosity on this earth.

5. Speaker Sir, despite liberal grants from the NDA Government, the previous Congress Government in the State went on reckless unproductive expenditure without raising State Government resources. I would like to inform this august House that when the earlier BJP Government came in power

Fiscal issues.

on 31st December, 2007, the State had a loan of ₹ 19,977 which increased to ₹ 27,598 when it left the office in December, 2012. However, the loan burden increased to ₹ 46,385 as on 18th December, 2017. Thus, during 2008 to 2012 additional loan of only ₹ 7,621 crore was taken, whereas, during 2013 to 2017 additional loan of ₹ 18,787 crore was taken which is 246 percent hike on additional loan taken during previous five years. Thus, the policy of previous Congress Government was “ऋणम् कृत्वा घृतम् पीवेत्”. Due to these loans, the State is having an annual interest burden of ₹ 3,500 crore.

Speaker Sir, may I say;

“चादर से पैर तभी बाहर आते हैं।
उसूलों से बड़े जब ख्वाब हो जाते हैं।।”

Not only this, the previous Congress Government has left a huge liability of pay arrears of the employees and pension arrears of pensioners to be released by the present Government.

Good Governance

6. We have also launched the “**Gudiya**” helpline number 1515 and “**Hoshiyar Singh**” helpline number 1090. Information gathered on the ‘Hoshiyar Singh’ helpline will be used to crack down on the activities of Drug, Forests, and Mining Mafias.

As promised, Our Government has launched the **Shakti** app, for women’s safety. A woman at the time of distress can press the red button on the mobile app and an

alert will immediately reach the Police Response Team. Shaking the device will also trigger the app to send its location through GPS. Once triggered, the app will automatically send a message to the nearest police control room. These actions clearly show our resolve to provide good governance.

May I say it here;

“परवाह नहीं चाहे ज़माना जितना भी खिलाफ़ हो,
चलूंगा उसी राह पर जो सीधी और साफ़ हो।”

7. Speaker Sir, we will apply a multi pronged strategy to deal with drug menace. We will address supply side as well as demand side of the problem through concerted efforts. In order to control the supply, we will ensure destruction of narcotic crops and strict enforcement of NDPS Act. I also propose to provide prize money to informers/police force for detection and seizure of drugs. In order to control demand, the evil effects of use of drugs will be propagated through print and electronic media. Sensitization programmes about adverse effects of drugs will be organized in educational institutions. The drug addicts will be dissuaded from taking drugs through psychological counselling, De-addiction camps, treatment and rehabilitation.

8. Speaker Sir, the past few years have witnessed some of the major policy reforms at the national level. As a result of these reforms undertaken by the Union Government, Foreign Direct Investment has gone up. Country's ranking in National Economy.

the ease of doing business has improved. With the introduction of unified Goods and Service Tax, the indirect tax system has been made much simpler. The application of digital technology has resulted in the benefits of welfare schemes reaching directly to the deserving people. The demonetization of high value currency has widened the tax base by reducing the cash currency in circulation. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has harmonized the relationship between lender and debtor.

The Indian economy has now become the seventh largest in the world with a total size of 2.5 Trillion U.S. Dollars. As per the forecast made by the IMF, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 percent during the next year. With the manufacturing sector getting back on the growth path, and the service sector resuming the pace, the national economy is on the path of achieving a growth rate of 8 percent plus.

State Economy

9. Speaker Sir, the lack of prudence exhibited by the previous Congress Government in managing the fiscal affairs of the State has not only resulted in heavy debt burden on people of the State, but, it has also resulted in slowing down the base of economic growth.

Growth rate of Himachal was 8.1 percent in 2015-16 which reduced to 6.9 percent in 2016-17. In current year i.e. 2017-18 the growth rate is expected to be 6.3 percent. During these three years, growth rate of Himachal Pradesh

is lower than the national growth rate. As per the advance estimates for 2017-18, the Gross Domestic Product of Himachal Pradesh has been estimated at ₹1,35,914 crore and the per capita income of the State is estimated to be ₹1,58,462.

10. Himachal Pradesh has also adopted the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations. These 17 Goals have 169 clearly defined targets. The Sustainable Development Goals have also been institutionalized into the budgetary and planning process of the State. Almost all of the new schemes have been formulated with the aim to achieve various targets under Sustainable Development Goals. The State Government will achieve most of the targets under SDG by 2022, in place of timeline of 2030 fixed by United Nations.

Sustainable
Development
Goals.

11. Speaker Sir, the planning process is integral to any budgetary exercise. The State Government has formulated an Annual Plan for 2018-19 with a size of ₹ 6,300 crore which is an enhancement of ₹ 600 crore over the Annual Plan size of ₹ 5,700 crore for 2017-18. Out of the proposed plan size of ₹ 6,300 crore, ₹ 1,587 crore have been proposed for the Scheduled Caste Component Plan, ₹ 567 Crore for the Tribal Sub-Plan and ₹ 75 crore for the Backward Area Sub Plan.

Annual Plan.

12. The Externally Aided Projects have been of immense help in supplementing the State's resources in

meeting the development goals. Partnerships with the multilateral and bilateral agencies have also helped in gaining insight into the best practices being followed at the global and national level. Currently, 13 EAPs are being implemented in the State with a total outlay of ₹ 15,320 crore. Two more EAPs are in the pipeline and are at various stages of negotiations with the funding agencies. I take this opportunity to thank Union Government for providing funds under EAPs in the sharing ratio of 90:10 to Himachal Pradesh.

Guiding Principles. **13.** Speaker Sir, despite the fiscal challenges, I assure the people of Himachal Pradesh that with the help of Union Government the pace of development will leap in Himachal. We set the following guiding principles for ourselves:

- Good governance to the people by improved service delivery.
- Transformation of the rural farm/horticulture economy to double the farmers' income.
- Livelihood and employment generation for youth.
- Restoring Law and Order.
- Housing for all the houseless.
- Control over drug, mining and forest mafias.
- Effective and affordable Health Service Delivery.
- Providing quality education.

- Empowerment of women.
- Promotion of investment by simplification of procedures.
- Bridging the infrastructure gap.
- Re-vitalize the hydro, tourism and trade sectors.
- Social security for old age, women and disabled.
- Upliftment of vulnerable sections.
- Safe drinking water for all households in the State.
- Connectivity to all the Panchayats with motorable roads.

The State Government will work with full zeal and dedication to realise the vision to make Himachal a truly '**Ram Rajya**' where everyone leads a good quality of life, in peaceful environment.

14. Speaker Sir, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has articulated the vision of "**Minimum Government and Maximum Governance**". This vision shall inspire our Government in carrying out reforms in policies and programme.

Administrative
Reforms.

Speaker Sir, whatever is measured is done. With this in mind, we will develop district level good governance index so that good governance in districts could be compared.

Our Government will review all the existing Acts, Rules, Regulations and schemes for their efficacy, relevance

and simplicity. The main objective of review will be to reduce the need of people to visit the Government offices. All the State Government departments will bring the matter before cabinet in next six months.

The reliable data is sine-quo-non for effective planning and implementation of Government schemes. The Department of Economics and Statistics will develop online data collection system for timely collection of data.

Our Government will continuously evaluate the expenditure under different components to curtail wasteful expenditure without affecting the development.

Our Government believes in Government at the door step of the people. Therefore I announce that all the Ministers of the State Government will regularly organize “**Jan Manch**” in remote areas of every district to solve the problems of the people at the spot. The Officers of all departments will be present to facilitate the decision making and grievance redressal.

15. Speaker Sir, I am of the view that public should be aware of various schemes started for their welfare. Hence, it is also proposed that every year after the budget, State Government will compile a booklet “**Jan Adhikaar Pustika**” on various welfare schemes and how to avail benefit under them. These Pustikas will be made available to public through Panchayats/Ration Shops.

16. Speaker Sir, it is important to execute various public works in time, so the benefit could percolate to the beneficiaries quickly.

I propose to announce that the departments of Public Works and IPH will implement Works Management Information System where status of all the works from Tender till completion will be updated on real time basis. This will be available on dash board of the Chief Minister and concerned Minister for regular monitoring.

17. At present stamps are issued either by Treasuries or by authorized bank branches. Our Government will start "**e-stamping**" system for non-judicial stamp papers. Under new system Citizen will be able to generate the stamp on their own through the online system at home/office without need to visit treasury or banks. The Registering authority will be able to verify the challan online.

18. The State Government will take up Bharat Net Phase-II on priority to provide High Speed Internet Connectivity at Gram Panchayat level using optical fiber network.

Information
Technology.

Our motto is to ensure paperless environment. e-Office has been implemented in five departments and five more departments will be added in 2018-19. In next five years, we endeavor to bring all the Government departments under e-office.

19. In order to bring transparency and efficiency in the Government Procurement process, all the tenders having value above ₹5 lakh will be carried out online using e-Procurement portal. Moreover, items available on Government e-Market (GeM) will be procured from GeM.

I propose that the work on IT Park in District Kangra will be done expeditiously to attract investment in this sector with an outlay of ₹12 crore and create job opportunities for 400 skilled people.

Sub-Plan.

20. Speaker Sir, there is a requirement of such community Bhawans having big halls so that different social functions are held there. Therefore, I propose a new “मुख्यमन्त्री लोक भवन” Scheme under which a Community Bhawan will be constructed with an outlay of ₹ 30 lakh in every constituency in next two years. Hon’ble Members of Parliament/ Members of Legislative Assembly may use their funds to construct bigger hall. I also announce that if Hon’ble member intends to construct one or two additional community bhawans in his constituency, then Government will provide ₹ 15 lakhs in addition to ₹ 15 lakhs provided by him. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 12 crore for this purpose.

Speaker Sir, during the two day meetings taken by me with the Hon’ble Members of Legislative Assembly on 12th and 13th February, 2018, to decide their development priorities for the year 2018-19, Hon’ble MLA,s have requested to increase the amount provided to them as the local areas

development fund under Vidhayak Khsetra Vikaas Nidhi Yojana and also the discretionary grant provided to them. Speaker Sir, I am happy to raise the grant under Vidhayak Khsetra Vikaas Nidhi Yojana to ₹ 1.25 crore from the existing limit of ₹ 1.10 crore and the discretionary grant to ₹ 7 lakh from the current level of ₹ 5 lakh. I am sure this will bring smile on faces of members of this August House.

Speaker Sir, may I say;

“बस दिल जीतने का मकसद है,
दुनिया जीत कर तो सिकंदर भी खाली हाथ गया था ।

21. Speaker Sir, we will provide 3 daals, 2 liter edible oil and 1 kg iodized salt to every ration card holder on subsidized rates under food subsidy scheme. We are also providing sugar to all ration-card holders. I request APL card holders of Himachal Pradesh to forgo both the subsidies and send their option to Deptt. of Food & Supplies. I am happy to intimate this Hon'ble house that my cabinet colleagues and I have decided to forgo above subsidies. I am making a budget provision of ₹ 220 crore for implementation of this scheme in 2018-19.

Food Reforms.

22. Under automation of Public Distribution System (e-PDS) we will provide PoS devices in all fair price shops in the State in the current year. We also propose to complete the digitization process of all ration cards. We will provide information regarding availability of ration on mobile.

23. Speaker Sir, 92 percent of the households in Himachal have LPG connections. Under “Ujjawala” Scheme of Government of India, LPG connections to eligible households are being provided. I am happy to announce that for women empowerment and environment conservation, a **new** “हिमाचल गृहिणी सुविधा योजना” will be launched. Speaker Sir, Grihani is a simple word but it has a deep meaning. Grihani is one whose debtor is entire household. This scheme will obviate the necessity of fuel wood collection by the women. The State Government will provide security for LPG connections and Gas stove to remaining households which are not covered under “**Ujjawala**” Scheme so that all households have gas connection within next two years. Speaker Sir, Himachal will be first State in the country which will provide this facility to all households in the State. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 12 crore for this scheme in 2018-19.

Speaker Sir,

“मैं नन्हा सा दीया हूँ, जलता रहूँगा द्वार पर,

आप अन्धकार को दो चुनौती मेरे ऐतबार पर।।”

24. Speaker Sir, Various control orders were issued under Essential Services Act, 1955 by the department. Now the Country has attained the Food Security and essential commodities are available through open market as well as through Public Distribution System. Most of the control orders

have lost their relevance and lead to Inspector Raj. During pre-budget discussion, Dealers Association also requested to remove these control orders. I propose that the provisions of fixing of prices and margin of profit under the Himachal Pradesh Hoarding and Prevention Order will be withdrawn, as such provisions are not in other States. I also propose that various control orders will be kept in abeyance and will be invoked only in case of food scarcity. Speaker Sir, may I quote famous Hindi poet 'Dushyant' here;

“सिर्फ हंगामा खड़ा करना मेरा मकसद नहीं,
मेरी कोशिश है कि ये सूत बदलनी चाहिए।”

25. Speaker Sir, Horticulture plays an important role in the livelihood of the people and economy of the State. We will ensure sustainable growth in Horticulture by giving adequate thrust on the productivity enhancement. Under the World Bank funded Horticulture Development Project of ₹ 1,134 crore, we propose to utilize nearly ₹ 100 crore on this project in 2018-19 on following activities:

Transformation of
Farms/ Horticulture
Economy.

- Setting up of 2,600 orchards of apple with high yielding varieties grafted on colonel rootstocks.
- Setting up of orchards of fruits like Mango litchi, Guava, Citrus, in an area of about 400 hectare on cluster based approach.
- Field training to technical staff of the department by the experts from New Zealand in advanced technologies of canopy and floor management.

- Training of adopter farmers in pruning, nutrition and floor management of orchards.
- Import of 3.70 lakh plants of high yielding varieties of Apple grafted on colonel rootstocks.
- Setting up of two centres of excellence in Shilaroo and Palampur.
- Irrigation facility in all clusters.
- CA cold storage, grading and packing houses and development of market yards.

26. Speaker Sir, two third population of Himachal Pradesh works in Agriculture and Horticulture sector. Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared that the farmer's income is to be doubled by 2022. We sincerely intend to transform the farm/horticulture economy by taking the following measures;

27. 1. **Focus on irrigation:-** Speaker Sir, Irrigation is key to increase the farm income. In Himachal Pradesh large number of irrigation schemes have been constructed by the department of IPH. However, water has not reached to the fields due to non-development of Command Area. An area of 1.30 lakh hectare is yet to be covered under CAD. This requires an investment of ₹ 500 crore. Speaker Sir, I propose to complete the work of providing of field channels to this large uncovered area in next five years. I propose a budget provision of ₹130 crore in 2018-19 for this purpose.

A new shelf of 111 minor irrigation schemes for an estimated cost of ₹ 338 crore covering 17,881 hectares

within three financial years has been approved for funding under “**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna(PMKSJ)**”. I am happy to inform that first instalment of central assistance of ₹ 49 crore have been received. I propose an outlay of ₹ 277 crore for Minor Irrigation Schemes in 2018-19.

Medium Irrigation Project Nadaun area and Phina Singh in District Kangra are under execution. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 85 crore for these two schemes.

I also propose a budget provision of ₹15 crore for “**Efficient Irrigation through Micro Irrigation Systems**” in 2018-19. I also propose to provide a budget of ₹ 10 crore for construction of bore well etc.

I am happy to intimate Hon’ble members that for irrigation, our Government will launch a new Scheme called, “**जल से कृषि को बल**” with a budget of ₹ 250 crore for five years. Under this scheme check dams and ponds will be constructed. I also propose to start a new “**Flow Irrigation Scheme**” with an outlay of ₹ 150 crore in next five years. Under this scheme, besides renovating the source location of Kuhls, strengthening of Kuhls in common area will be undertaken. Speaker Sir, in addition to above, I also propose to start a “**सौर सिंचाई योजना**” with an outlay of ₹ 200 crore for five years. Under this scheme the solar pumps will be installed to lift the water for irrigation along with necessary infrastructure.

Speaker Sir, I firmly believe that these three new irrigation schemes and development of Command area will improve the economic condition of the farmers/horticulturists.

Speaker Sir, May I say here;

“मेहनत अच्छी हो तो रंग लाती है,
मेहनत गहरी हो तो सबको भाती है,
मेहनत हिमाचली किसान करें,
तो इतिहास बनाती है।।”

28. 2. Focus on lowering the cost of production:
All the farmers will be covered under ‘Soil Health Card Scheme’ in 2018-19 to ensure balanced use of nutrients.

The climate of Himachal Pradesh is conducive for off season vegetables. State Government will distribute high yield potential seeds to farmers. Good quality seeds will also be distributed for cereal crops at subsidized cost. Similarly good quality planting material at subsidized cost will be supplied by the department of Horticulture to the orchardists.

I am also happy to announce that electricity to farmers for irrigation purpose will be provided at the subsidized rate of 75 paise per unit in place of existing ₹ 1 per unit. This will benefit lakhs of farmers.

Speaker Sir, at present tax is levied on apple, other fruits and vegetables on Certain Goods Carried by Road(CGCR). This tax is collected by the department of

Excise and Taxation at the barriers. It hinders traffic and horticulturists have to pay tax. I am happy to announce that the State Government will withdraw levying of Certain Goods Carried by Roads(CGCR) on apple, other fruits and vegetables from 2018-19, benefiting lakhs of orchardists in the State. Speaker Sir, I would like to quote 'Gautam Budha' here;

“मैं कभी नहीं देखता कि क्या किया जा चुका है,
मैं हमेशा देखता हूँ कि क्या किया जाना बाकी है।”

29. Speaker Sir, about 39,790 farmers covering an area 21,473 hectares have already adopted **Organic Farming**.

Now, Our Government intends to encourage **Zero Budget Natural Farming**, so as to bring down the cost of cultivation. We are highly thankful to His Excellency, the Governor for guiding us in this matter. A team of Ministers and Officers visited Gurukul at Kurukshetra to understand the natural farming. All of them were quite convinced that this is the best way to reduce the cost of farming in Agriculture/ Horticulture and also to provide healthy food to the people. I propose to take the following actions to promote organic and zero budget natural farming in the State;

1. Farmers and extension staff of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments will be trained in this farming. Awareness campaign will be launched .
2. Package of practice will be developed by the Universities.

3. The use of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides will be discouraged.
4. The budget provided for pesticides/ insecticides to the department of Agriculture and Horticulture will be used for providing bio-pesticides and bio-insecticides.
5. Policy will be framed and implemented for promotion of '**Desi Cow**'.
6. Government will facilitate certification and marketing of organic produce.
7. I propose to provide investment subsidy of 50 percent for establishment of bio-pesticides plants for promotion of organic farming in the State.
8. A new scheme called "प्राकृतिक खेती खुशहाल किसान" will be launched under which farmers would be provided training, necessary equipments, bio-pesticides, bio-insecticides, etc. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 25 crore for 2018-19.

Speaker sir, I am happy to announce that by taking the above integrated approach, we aspire to make Himachal Pradesh an Organic Farming State in next five years.

Speaker Sir, मैं मानता हूँ कि,

“सफलता एक दिन में नहीं मिलती,

मगर ठान लो तो एक दिन जरूर मिलती है।।”

30. 3. Focus on Extension Activities: Departments will organize “**Farmer Festivals**” at all blocks of the State weekly during Rabi and Kharif sowing seasons and after that at appropriate time during the year. All banks and officials from departments will participate in these fairs so that farmers get credit and all technical information and agricultural inputs at right time at one place.

31. Animal Husbandry plays an important role in the strengthening of rural economy. Apart from providing regular services such as veterinary aid, breed improvement, prophylactic vaccination and extension activities, number of initiatives will be undertaken during 2018-19. We will issue 7.78 lakh health cards (Nakul Swasthya Patra) under “**Rashtriya Gokul Mission Scheme**” for maintaining and monitoring the health of cattle and their production status.

32. 4. Technological Intervention: The State Government will implement “**वाई० एस० परमार किसान स्वरोजगार योजना**” with a budget provision of ₹ 23 crore in 2018-19 for construction of poly houses for increasing protected cultivation.

Under “**Mukhya Mantri Green House Renovation scheme**” there is a provision of 50 percent subsidy on renovating damaged polysheets. I am happy to enhance this to 70 percent.

33. The farm mechanization is a need of hour because of labour shortage. However, many farmers are not able to purchase implements like tractors, power weeders, power tillers due to high cost. Therefore, the State Government will encourage establishment of Agriculture Equipment hiring centres from where farmers/horticulturists can get implements on hire basis. A subsidy at the rate of 40 percent upto ₹ 25 lakh on machinery will be provided to Himachali Farmers and young entrepreneurs for establishment of such centres.

I also propose to provide ₹ 12 crore for power sprayers, power tillers, to the department of Horticulture in 2018-19. I also propose to provide ₹ 20 crore to the Department of Agriculture for providing power weeders and power tillers keeping in view the huge demand and also to reduce the cost. Moreover, farm equipments will also be supplied to the farmers under National Mission for Extension and Technology with a budget provision of ₹ 29 crore.

34. To protect horticultural crops from hailstorms, 30 lakh square meter area shall be brought under protected cultivation including anti hail nets. There was a budget provision of ₹ 2.27 crore in 2017-18 for providing subsidy for anti- hail net. I propose to increase it to ₹ 10 crore for 2018-19.

35. Speaker Sir, our last Government started installation of anti-hail guns. Looking at its success, Horticulturists installed anti-hail guns at many places on their own. I am

happy to announce that Government will provide 60 percent subsidy for installation of anti-hail guns to horticulturists under new “बागवानी सुरक्षा योजना”. I propose to provide a budget of ₹ 10 crore for this scheme.

36. There is a menace created by monkeys, wild animals and abandoned cattle in agriculture sector. We are implementing a Scheme, “**Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojna**” under which solar fencing is installed. Now there is a great demand under this scheme. The cost will be reduced if this scheme is implemented in a cluster form. I, therefore, announce that a subsidy of 85 percent will be provided if three or more farmers send a proposal for installing of the solar fencing. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 35 crore for this scheme.

37. **5. Post Harvest Management:** The State Government will upgrade various grading and packing houses and establish CA cold storage under the **World Bank Horticulture Development Scheme**. The Government will also provide plastic crates at 50 percent cost to the orchardists and vegetable growers.

As one of the major steps to double Farmers’ income and create employment opportunities in the rural areas, the Government of India has introduced a scheme – “**Pradhan Mantri Krishi SAMPADA Yojana**”. It encourages establishment of Integrated Cold Chain Creation of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities, Infrastructure for

Agro-processing Clusters, The subsidy component under the schemes is 50 percent of investment in Plant and Machinery upto ₹ 5 crore in food processing and ₹ 10 crore in Cold Chain Infrastructure.

The State Government will invite proposals from various organizations to get approved from the Government of India under this scheme in 2018-19. The State Government will allot industrial plots at 50 percent of the normal rate for these industries.

The State Government has started the '**State Mission on Food Processing**' for giving boost to the food processing. I propose an outlay of ₹ 10 crore for this mission. There is huge potential for growth of food processing in the rural areas. We will invite industries from the food processing sector to start potato chips industry in Kangra and Kullu Districts.

The State Government will also lease out Government land at 1 percent lease rate to set up post harvest processing infrastructure in the State. The stamp duty shall be charged at a rate of 3 percent if private land is purchased by the such industrialist. This will boost marketing of agro products in the State.

38. 6. Focus on Crop Diversification: The State Government will bring an additional area under fruits and vegetables to enhance the income of the farmers. At present

₹ 300 crore JICA crop diversification is being implemented in five districts of Himachal Pradesh. I am happy to announce that ₹ 1,000 crore phase-II of this project has been recommended by the Ministry of Finance to JICA to cover all the Districts of Himachal Pradesh under this project.

39. The department shall promote cultivation of improved cultivars of fruits like Mango, Litchi, Guava, Citrus, Papaya, Sapota, Pomegranate, Persimmon and Kiwi in the lower areas of the State.

40. The State has a great scope of protected cultivation of high value flowers, which give higher market returns to the growers as compared to traditional farming. Considering this, I propose to launch a new scheme, “**Himachal Pushp Kranti Yojna**” for promoting protected cultivation of high value flowers. Under the scheme, hi-tech poly houses for flower, training of farmers and other inputs will be provided. This will not only create employment opportunities in the State but will also make Himachal a “**Flower State**”. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 10 crore for this scheme in 2018-19.

Speaker Sir, the flower producers send their flower packets to market using HRTC buses. We will encourage private sector for participation in marketing of flowers and also for setting up of CA cold chain under Krishi Sampada Yojna. The State Government will instruct HRTC to reduce the freight charges for transportation of flowers by 25 percent for the benefit of floriculturists.

41. 7. **Focus on Risk Mitigation:** The State Government will cover all the crops under '**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna**' and all the fruit crops under Weather based Insurance Scheme to protect farmers from natural disasters. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 29 crore for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna and for Weather Based Insurance Scheme as State contribution under these schemes. These schemes will help the farmers to mitigate risk due to various calamities.

42. 8. **Focus on Remunerative Price Realization:** The State Government has created 59 number of market yards to ensure remunerative price to the farmers. Under the world Bank Project ₹ 150 crore will be utilized for upgradation and opening of new Mandis in the State. The market yards would also be linked with National Agriculture Market for better price realization for the farmers. The rural Haats shall also be strengthened and converted into Gramin Agri Markets.

I am also please to inform that the State Government will formulate **Himachal Pradesh Agriculture produce and live stock marketing (promotion and facilitation) Bill, 2018** to encourage e-Agriculture, marketing, live stock marketing and promoting direct marketing of agriculture produce in the State.

43. 9. **Focus on Income Diversification:** In order to boost the economy of the Tribal Sheep Breeders, it is

proposed to provide 1,000 Breeding Rams at a subsidy of 60 percent. We will provide one unit of 11 Goats including 1 male Goat of Himalayan Breeds under “**Krishak Bakri Palan Yojna**” on 60 percent subsidy.

I further announce that we will provide 60 percent subsidy for setting up of 50 units under “**5000-Broiler Scheme**” this Poultry Promotion Scheme.

44. Our Government is committed to bring white revolution and strengthen Milk Cooperative Societies. These societies are playing important role for production of milk in rural areas. I announce a freight subsidy ₹ 1 per liter to other dairy cooperatives to compensate them for collection and distribution of milk. This freight subsidy for encouraging milk co-operative is being given for the first time. The State Government will provide 75 percent subsidy for setting up of milk processing and chilling facilities by dairy cooperative societies.

Himachal Pradesh Milk Federation proposes to collect 245 lakh liters of milk during the year. I am happy to announce an enhancement of milk procurement price by ₹ 1 per liter. The Milk Federation will be provided Grant-in-Aid of ₹ 17 crore in 2018-19.

45. Speaker Sir, the State Government will provide improved fodder and chaff cutter to farmers on 50 percent subsidy under “Uttam Chara Utpadan Yojna”. Ajola grass will

also be encouraged under this scheme. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 7 crore for 2018-19.

46. Speaker Sir, Milk production is an important source of income of farmers and provide employment at local level. The government of India in order to increase self employment in rural areas and to provide competitive milk prices has launched "**Dairy Enterprises Development Scheme**" under which 25 percent subsidy is being given by NABARD, 25 percent is farmers' contribution and 50 percent loan is being given by the bank. To boost this scheme in the State, State Government will provide additional subsidy of 10 percent to reduce the loan to 40 percent. This subsidy will be 20 percent in case of purchase of Desi Cow reducing the loan to 30 percent.

47. The Department of Animal Husbandry is providing cattle feed for milch cattle at 50 percent subsidy to SC/ST families. I extend this scheme to the BPL farmers of general category. This subsidy will be given to BPL families rearing Desi cows. These steps will also encourage zero budget Prakritik Krishi. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 4 crore for this purpose.

48. The farmers are practising bee keeping since times immemorial due to availability of different types of Bee-flora in the State. Bees play an important role in pollination of horticultural crops. I propose a new "मुख्यमन्त्री मधु विकास योजना" for modernizing of bee keeping and adopting it in a

big way. A subsidy of 80 percent will be given under this scheme. I propose a budget of ₹ 10 crore for this purpose.

49. The quality linked wool pricing scheme is benefitting a large number of sheep breeders. I am happy to increase the procurement price of wool by 10 percent in 2018-19.

50. Speaker Sir, departments of Agriculture and Horticulture are implementing similar subsidy linked schemes like, green house construction, poly house renovation and for mechanization of Agriculture/Horticulture. I propose that a joint committee of these departments will be set up to fix uniform pattern of assistance and for empanelment of suppliers.

51. Speaker Sir, Fish seed stocking and effective conservation are the main thrust areas of reservoir management. We will stock 5.0 lakh of trout seed in 100 trout raceways. 11 new Trout Hatcheries and 100 trout units shall be established in the State. In order to provide remunerative prices to the fishermen, Fish Market Information System developed by The Central Marine Fisheries Institute Kochi will be rolled out.

Fisheries

Fish feed mills shall also be established by providing industrial incentives for providing low cost fish feed to the fishermen. To encourage investment in this sector, I propose that Government land will be given at one percent lease and if private land is purchased for the above purposes

then stamp duty will be charged at the rate of three percent instead of 6 percent. Further, investment subsidy at the rate of 50 percent shall be provided on plant and machinery.

52. Speaker Sir, the present Government is committed for protection and enrichment of Gau-Vansh. In the first cabinet meeting of the Government a cabinet sub-Committee was formed to propose measures for promotion of Gau-vansh. Now I am happy to announce that a Gau-Sewa Aayog will be set up in Himachal Pradesh to recommend suitable policies for protection of Gau-vansh and programmes for development of it.

The State Government will lay special emphasis to encourage development of local cows for benefit of natural farming. The State Government will also encourage Cow urine based industry by providing 50 percent investment subsidy.

53. Speaker Sir, we will also encourage active participation of local people, NGOs, Panchayats and temple trusts and charitable organizations to strengthen the existing Gau-Sadans and open new ones to house and feed the stray cattle. I propose that "**H.P. Religious Endowments and Temple Trust Act**" will be suitably amended to ear mark at least 15 percent of offerings in the temples towards construction, maintenance and running of Gau-Sadans. Through this ₹17 crore will become available every year for development of Govansh. I am happy to announce that cess of ₹1 per bottle will be levied on every bottle of liquor sold in

the State as Govansh vikas cess. This will fetch round ₹8 crore per annum. The amount realised from this will be used for maintaining these Gau-sadans. The registration and tattooing of cattle will be strictly implemented to identify their owners.

The Village Common Grazing Lands will be identified for grazing of the cattle enrolled in the Gau-Sadans in rotation basis as fixed by the Panchayat. The Government will provide Government land on token lease of ₹ 1 for setting up of Gau-Sadans. The health concerns of such animals will be taken care of by the Government veterinary staff posted in the area free of cost.

Speaker Sir, I announce that our Government will also encourage Mahila Mandals in protecting abandoned cattle. The Mahila Mandals would be provided suitable grant. Two best Panchayats in every development block where all cattle are registered & tattooed and owners do not abandon their cattle thus making the Panchayat free of abandoned cattle, will be provided a cash award of ₹ 10 lakh each.

54. Speaker Sir, Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has always been a priority for the BJP Governments. I would like to remind this August House that it was the BJP Government which gave 50 percent reservation to women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

55. Government of India has declared Himachal Pradesh as ODF State. We will now concentrate on

Rural
Development and
Panchayati Raj

implementation of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in the rural areas. On the line of providing toilets to the houses, now small pits for waste water along with street drainage will be constructed under MGNREGA. The resources under MGNREGA and Swachh Bharat will be utilized to make Himachal liquid and solid waste managed within next five years.

Speaker Sir, in rural areas, paper, plastic and metal waste is thrown because of non-availability of collection system. I would like to encourage waste collectors and segregators by providing them 33 percent subsidy on pick-up van with a maximum limit of ₹1.5 lakh.

56. Under MGNREGA 100 days employment is provided to an unskilled worker in a year. Considering the drought condition in the State, I propose to increase number of days from 100 to 120 for the coming season to provide additional employment days to the needy persons. The additional expenditure on account of additional day will be borne by the State Government.

57. In order to further encourage the Self Help Groups, I propose to enhance their revolving fund from existing ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 40,000.

58. Speaker Sir, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 42 crore under “**Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojna**” under which BPL families of general categories have been covered. Due

to natural calamities, people's houses are damaged completely. I am happy to announce that funds will be released immediately under this scheme for reconstruction of houses destroyed due to natural calamities. The State Government is also implementing "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna" and Housing scheme under the Welfare Department. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 150 crore under various housing schemes during 2018-19.

Speaker Sir,

“उन घरों में जहां मिट्टी के घड़े रहते हैं,
कद में छोटे हों, मगर लोग बड़े रहते हैं।”

59. Speaker Sir, every Panchayat in Himachal Pradesh has unique history and had eminent people. I propose that a "**Gram Gaurav Patt**" will be displayed in every panchayat showing the brief history and name of distinguished person/ persons born in that panchayat. The Gram Gaurav Patt will be maintained by the Local Panchayat.

I also propose that "**Moksh Dhaam**" will be constructed in each panchayat in a phased manner to provide dignity to the departed soul.

60. The 13th Finance Commission grant was allotted to Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti as well as to Gram Panchayats. However, 14th Finance Commission discontinued the grant to Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti. I am pleased to announce that the State Government will provide additional budget of ₹ 45 crore, in 2018-19 so that

the Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samities could undertake development activities in their areas.

The 5th State Finance Commission has submitted its report and I am happy to announce that the State Government has accepted its recommendations. A devolution of ₹ 194 crore will be made to the PRIs as per the recommendations of the Commission for the year 2018-19.

61. Speaker Sir, our Government is fully aware of the responsibilities assigned to the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Therefore, I announce to increase the honorarium of the representatives of PRIs. The honorarium of the Chairperson Zila Parishad will be increased from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 11,000, that of Vice-Chairperson from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 7,500, and Member of Zila Parishad from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 4,000 per month. In case of the Panchayat Samiti, the honorarium of the Chairperson will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 6,500 of the Vice Chairperson from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 4,500 and Member from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 3,500 per month. In the Gram Panchayats, the honorarium of the Panchayat Pradhan will be enhanced from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 4,000 that of Up-Pradhan from ₹ 2,200 to ₹ 2,500 Sitting allowance of Ward members will be enhanced to 240 per sitting. With this increase the representatives of PRIs will get an honorarium of ₹ 45 crore per annum.

62. I propose a budget allocation of ₹ 1,894 crore for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department for 2018-19.

63. Speaker Sir, In Himachal Pradesh, 66.5 percent of the total geographical area is classified as Forest land.

We will establish 22 Van Vihars/eco parks with funding support from State CAMPA during the next three years. In the current financial year, at-least 25 new sites will be allotted for development of eco tourism.

The Chil forests are found in large tracts in the State which are highly prone to fire. Therefore, in order to protect these forests from fire, pine needle based industries shall be encouraged by the State Government by providing investment subsidy of 50 percent for establishing such industry.

Speaker Sir, the State Government will initiate a policy in which all forest produce and uprooted salvaged trees in the forests will be collected and auctioned in a transparent manner to increase State Government income. I am happy to announce that the Supreme Court has given permission for silviculture extraction in three forest ranges on pilot basis.

64. In the recent past, some incidents of attack on forest staff by forest Mafia have taken place. A scheme to provide appropriate weapons to forest staff will be launched shortly.

65. A majority of rural population collects herbs and other non-timber forest products from the forests, which provides additional income to them. To increase the livelihood options of this population, a new scheme called “**Van**

Samridhi Jan Samridhi” will be launched with a view to focus on training of local people in collection, processing and value addition of such locally collected produce as well as marketing of these products.

66. Speaker Sir, I am happy to announce that three externally aided projects will be started in 2018-19. These include ₹ 800 crore JICA supported **HP Forest Eco System Management and Livelihood Improvement Project**, in which livelihood needs of the people will be met. ₹ 665 crore World Bank funded **Integrated Development Project for source Sustainability and Climate Resilient Rainfed Agriculture** to develop water resources for increasing farm income. **H.P. Forests for prosperity** under which fuel wood plantation and income generation from non-timber forest products will be increased.

For the next financial year a provision of ₹ 125 crore is being made for externally aided projects in forest department.

67. Speaker Sir, it is my firm belief that involvement of local communities is crucial for conservation and development of forests. We will strengthen participation of Yuvak Mandals/ Mahila Mandals by allotting plots in forest lands for plantation of useful plant species. I propose a new scheme **“Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojna”**. Similarly, plots of forest land will also be given to schools for raising plantation under new scheme **“Vidyarthi Van Mitra”**.

Speaker Sir, may I say here;

“इक पेड़ ऐसा मोहब्बत का लगाया जाए,
जिसका पड़ोसी के आँगन में भी साया जाए।”

I propose a budget of ₹ 651 crore for Forest Department for 2018-19

68. Speaker Sir, for strengthening of ecological management facility, our Government will establish a new Laboratory of Pollution Control Board at Sundernagar.

Environment
Science &
Technology.

The HP Pollution Control Board will provide financial assistance to Health Department for setting up a new common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment facility. The Board will also install 12 Electronic Display Screens (EDS) at 12 different locations in the State to enhance awareness about pollution level among general public. Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board will promote robust technical solutions for urban solid waste management in 10 Urban Local Bodies.

69. Speaker Sir, our Government will ensure harmonious economic growth and environmental conservation. Environmental audit of industries in the State will be done to protect environment from pollution. Climate Change Adaption Demonstration Project will be launched in two districts under Climate Change Adaptation programme. Climate change Vulnerability Assessment will be carried out covering 7,000 villages in 1200 panchayats in Beas river basin in districts of Kullu, Mandi, Hamirpur and Kangra.

The Government started Aryabhata Geo Informatics Space Application Centre in 2011. We will develop online monitoring tools for effective administrative and public service for departments of Public Works, Health, Education, Rural Development and Tourism.

70. The State Government shall establish Vigyan Grams in the State. Vigyan Grams will train and build capacities of local farmers and other user groups and help them to adopt some of the scientific, low cost, hill specific rural technologies. One village each will be selected in Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour District.

Our Government will start “युवा विज्ञान पुरस्कार” scheme to encourage young students towards science. We will provide prizes to 10 best students of 10th and 12th classes of Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education in Science under this scheme.

Co-operation.

71. Speaker Sir, Our Government is committed to empowerment of farmers through co-operative movement. I am happy to announce that second phase of ICDP will be started in Mandi and Solan Districts by NCDC. In addition to this Government will make efforts to bring Una and Chamba under second phase of ICDP.

Urban
Development.

72. Speaker Sir, the towns in Himachal Pradesh are growing at a fast pace and so is growing the need of citizen services in the urban areas. To improve urban infrastructure

and service delivery mechanism various ambitious centrally sponsored missions/schemes namely '**Smart City Mission**', Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna- housing For All(PMAY-HFA), Deen Dayal Antyodya-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) will be implemented in the State.

Speaker Sir, It is a matter of great pleasure that Government of India selected Dharmshala in May, 2016 and Shimla in 2017 under Smart City Mission. Government of India has approved projects worth ₹ 2,110 crore for Dharamshala Smart City Mission out of which first installment of ₹ 190 crore has been received by the State. Facilities like Urban Water Supply, Smart Street lights, Sewerage Management etc. will be provided under the mission. Similarly, Government of India has approved projects amounting to ₹ 2,905 crore for Shimla Smart City. State Government has sent the proposal for first installment to Government of India. It is hoped that funds will be received soon.

Speaker Sir, it is important to encourage competition amongst Urban Local Bodies for cleanliness and prompt services to the public. I therefore, propose that Municipal Council which is rated best in cleanliness and public service delivery will be given an award of ₹ 1 crore and best Nagar Panchayat will be given 75 lakh under a new scheme, "**Shresth Shahar Yojna**".

We will set up cluster based Solid Waste Management Plants in Baddi, Mandi, Dharamshala, Kangra and Manali towns.

To improve urban Governance, we will operationalize client friendly online Building Planning Approval System in all the 54 Urban Local Bodies in the State to facilitate common citizens in obtaining building permissions.

Parks are necessary for healthy growth of citizens in urban areas. I announce that 60 percent grant would be provided to the urban local bodies for development of parks in the Municipal areas. I propose a budget provision of ₹10 crore for this purpose.

In order to ease congestion of vehicles, work for construction of Parkings will be taken up on PPP mode. We will also provide 50 percent grant to Urban Local Bodies who intend to construct parking. I propose a budget provision of ₹10 crore for this purpose.

State Government will devolve ₹122 crore to ULBs in 2018-19 as per recommendations of 5th State Financial Commission in 2018-19.

73. Considering the diverse nature of responsibilities of the elected representatives of Urban Local Bodies, I announce to increase the honourarium for the Chairperson of Nagar Panchayat from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 5,000 for Vice Chairperson from ₹ 2,800 to ₹ 3,500 and the members from

₹ 1,500 to ₹ 2,000 per month. Four Municipal Councils, the honourarium of the Chairperson will be increased from ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,000 Vice Chairperson from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 5,000 and for the members from ₹ 1,700 to ₹ 2,200 per month. For the Municipal Corporation Shimla and Dharamshala, I announce to increase the honourarium of the Mayor from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 11,000 for the Deputy Mayor from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 8,000 and the councilors from ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 5,000.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 487 crore to the department of Urban Development for 2018-19.

74. Speaker Sir, The State Government will encourage land pooling for developing housing colonies, industrial areas and commercial developments by making necessary amendment in the Town and Country Planning Act.

Town & Country
Planning.

Under land pooling systems, landowners voluntarily sign ownership rights over to a single agency. This agency develops the land by building roads and electricity connections. Once this is done, it returns the land to the original owners. But since the plot now has more amenities, its price has certainly risen compared the market value of the owners' original landholding. This way the development can take place in the State without need of land acquisition.

We will prepare and display on departmental website directory of professionals like Engineers and Architects etc. for facilitating general public for preparing maps from qualified Engineers and Architects.

Land Administration.

75. Speaker Sir, the revenue record in the State has been digitized. Now, it is time to move further to provide additional services. The Revenue Department will rollout “National Generic Document Registration System” for online registration of documents wherein any property within the state can be registered in any revenue office of the state.

Our Government will launch new module called “**Sarkari Bhoomi**”. To provide the land quickly for various public uses, an inventory of Government land in all Districts of the State shall be prepared.

76. Disaster Management is an area of vital concern in our State. Himachal Pradesh is vulnerable to large number of natural and human induced disasters. In case the drought like situation continues in the State, we will be providing adequate budget from SDRF for provision of drinking water, fodder and input subsidy to farmers. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 273 crore for Disaster Management for 2018-19.

Water Supply.

77. Speaker Sir, the State Government is committed to provide safe drinking water to 100 percent households of the State. As per census of 2011, in Himachal Pradesh 89.5 percent households have access to safe drinking water as against 43.5 percent at national level.

Speaker Sir, at present departmental water supply schemes provide water at designated time during the day.

We will take steps to provide water 24X7 on pilot basis. Department is running 3448 Drinking Water and Irrigation schemes, for running these efficiently, they shall be automated in a phased manner. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 275 crore for 2018-19 for drinking water.

Water facility for all left out partially covered habitations in rural areas of State have been presented to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The Government of India has recommended it for funding by the New Development Bank (BRICS) amounting to 100 million U.S. Dollars in first phase. We have submitted DPRs of 31 water supply projects covering 3,150 habitations amounting to 100 million U.S. Dollars to the bank.

221 ongoing rural water supply schemes where more than 75 percent work has been executed till date shall be completed and commissioned during the year by allocating addition funds from State to the tune of 33 crore. About 2.76 lakh population of 2040 habitations shall be benefitted from these schemes.

78. Members of this August House are aware that it was the BJP Government in the early 1990's which popularized the concept of hand pumps for water supply in Himachal Pradesh. A total of 36,901 hand pumps are now installed. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 20 crore in 2018-19. I also announce that hand pumps to individual beneficiaries will be installed on 75 percent cost.

79. To ensure that people of Himachal Pradesh continue to get drinking water and irrigation facilities at an affordable cost, I propose to provide ₹ 500 crore to IPH Department for meeting out the energy charges for water supply and irrigation schemes.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 2,572 crore for Department of Irrigation and Public Health.

Promotion of
Investment.

80. Speaker Sir, the State Government is committed to boost investment in industries, hydro power and tourism as these sectors are engines of growth as well as provide employment. However, at present the investor has to move from pillar to post for various clearances. Our Government will take following steps to make Himachal Pradesh investor friendly;

1. **Lease of land:-** Speaker Sir, for increasing investment and employment in the State, vacant Government land should be put for productive use. Present Himachal Pradesh Lease Rules are very cumbersome and makes it difficult to lease out land for investment purposes. A committee headed by Chief Secretary will examine these rules and suggest suitable amendments to make them investment friendly.

2. **Clearances under FCA and FRA:** It has been observed that it takes a long time to get FCA and FRA clearances for hydro projects and tourism projects. The State Government will streamline the processes under these two

Acts and also regularly monitor the clearances. We will also pursue with the Government of India to delegate power upto 5 hectare under FCA Act to the State Government.

3. **No Objection Certificates:** Most of the investors have intimated that they require NOCs from various departments which delay investment and employment. We will reduce the requirements of NOCs to the bare minimum and also make them deemed, if not given in a stipulated time.

4. **Him Pragati:** Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister has fast tracked project worth ₹ 9.46 lakh crore at national level by regularly monitoring infrastructure project on, online monitoring system "**PRAGTI**". Learning from this initiative, Himachal Pradesh Government will also launch "**Him Pragti**", online monitoring system where power projects, industrial projects, tourism projects and other infrastructure projects will be monitored by me to ensure faster clearances and approvals from all the Departments.

Speaker Sir, May I say here;

“एक छुपी हुई पहचान रखता हूँ,
बाहर शांत हूँ, भीतर तूफान रखता हूँ।”

81. Speaker Sir, Our Government is determined to accord top priority to all round, eco-friendly sustainable industrialization in the State. The State Government will endeavour to promote industries based on local resources especially in the interior areas.

Industries.

82. Speaker Sir, the Industries have demanded that AGT on industrial products should be withdrawn/reduced to make the industries competitive with other State as this levy is not there in other States. I have considered the demand of Industries and announce that the AGT on Iron and Steel, Yarn and Plastic Goods will be reduced by 25 percent, from existing rates.

I am also happy to announce that the State Government will come out with a policy of partial reimbursement of net State Good and Services Tax paid by the new industries for certain years as well as for existing industries for remaining period of earlier VAT incentives.

83. Cement plants provide large direct and indirect employment. I therefore announce that bidding of cement plant based on Broh Shind deposits in District Chamba and white cement plant at Nohradhar in District Sirmour will be done during 2018-19.

84. Speaker Sir, Creation and maintenance of industrial infrastructure is pre-requisite for industrial development. The industrial area at Kandrori and Pandoga will be completed on top priority. The lease of land will be given for 90 years for industrial plots, in place of existing provision of 30 years. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 35 crore for BBND. I also propose to provide a budget of ₹ 4 crore for widening of road between Barotiwala-Mandhala-Parwanoo and Barotiwala-Gunnai- Parwanoo.

85. The State Government has already announced to end the Mining Mafia in the State. To ensure this, all the mining sites will be allotted through a transparent online competitive bidding in 2018-19.

86. Speaker Sir, the major employment in industries is the small and medium industries. I propose that the electricity duty on existing small industries will be reduced from 4 percent to 2 percent and in case of medium industrial units it will be reduced from 10 percent to 7 percent. I am also happy to announce that any new small and medium industrial unit will not be charged electricity duty for first five years.

I am also pleased to announce that new Small Scale Industries, except those in negative list, will get electricity at the rate of ₹ 4.50 per unit for first five years.

I am happy to inform that HPSEBL will file a petition in HPERC for providing electricity at subsidized cost to new industries and for additional electricity requirements for substantial expansion of existing industries.

May I say here;

“निकलता है हर सुबह एक नया सूरज,
यह बताने के लिए कि,
उजाले बांट देने से,
उजाले कम नहीं होते ।।”

87. Speaker Sir, the financial prosperity of Himachal Pradesh lies in the speedy harnessing of its Hydro Power

MPP & Power.

potential. Hydro Power development is the key engine to the economic growth of the State. Out of the total potential of about 27,000 MW a potential to the tune of 20,912 MW already stands allotted under various sectors. Capacity addition of 182 MW from Hydro Electric Projects will be added next year.

88. Under the grid connected solar power projects 15 MW capacity is proposed to be added. The State Government will launch awareness campaign to popularize the roof top grid connected power plants in order to reduce the burden of energy bills of the consumers. I propose to provide additional 10 percent per kWp assistance to the beneficiaries subject to maximum of ₹ 4,000 per kWp to boost this initiative.

89. The execution of Power Projects have slowed down in the State. The State Government intends to expedite the execution of the projects in right earnest. The State government will carry out amendments in the Hydro Power Policy by making it more Independent Power Producer friendly. Necessary changes in the policy framework will be carried out in view of rising cost of hydro power projects, undue delay in obtaining clearances and difficulties being faced with regard to evacuation of power. The proposed changes in the hydro power policy will be made by the Government in next three months after consulting all the stakeholders.

90. The HPSEBL plays an important role in providing electricity to every household in the remotest corners of the State. I propose an equity contribution of ₹ 50 crore to HPSEBL for improving the voltage in rural areas.

Hon'ble members have raised the issue of low voltage in rural areas. HPSEBL will undertake the State Wide Systems Strengthening to solve this problem.

I am also happy to provide ₹ 475 crore in 2018-19 for subsidizing electricity to the domestic and Agriculture consumers of the State.

I propose a total budget of ₹ 1,219 crore for the MPP and Power Department.

91. Our Government is committed for a sustainable development of tourism. We have received nearly 2 crore tourists in 2017 in State. Our strategy would be nudging tourism towards greater quality rather than being satisfied with the increasing number every year.

Expansion in
Tourism Sector.

We will make special improvement in basic infrastructure at important tourist destinations of natural and cultural heritage. Our Government will send special proposal to Government of India for development of basic infrastructure in virgin tourist destinations for second phase under ADB project.

We will lay special emphasis on diversification of tourists to unexplored areas for creating job opportunities

amongst local youth. I propose to create a new scheme "नई राहें, नई मंजिलें". Under this scheme, improvement of road infrastructure, Transport, Parkings and other basic amenities in the identified virgin destinations will be undertaken. I propose ₹ 50 crore under this fund for 2018-19. State Government will encourage setting up of big tourist leisure/recreation resorts, ski/adventure activities, eco-tourism parks, ropeways at these locations. Single window clearance will be used for such projects to expedite approvals.

Speaker Sir, may quote here respected Atal Ji, our beloved former Prime Minister,

“टूटे हुए तारों से फूटे वासन्ती स्वर,
पत्थर की छाती में उग आया नव अंकुर,
झरे सब पीले पात, कोयल की कुहुक रात,
प्राची में अरुणिमा की रेख देख पाता हूँ,
गीत नया गाता हूँ, गीत नया गाता हूँ ।”

92. We will improve connectivity, particularly air connectivity to attract high end tourists. Heli taxi routes will be identified for the operation of heli taxi services. We will take steps to start heli taxi services from Chandigarh to Shimla and from Shimla to other parts of the State. More helipads will be made operational under “UDAAN-II” scheme.

93. Speaker Sir, Religious tourism will be promoted in a big way in the state since there is a vast potential in this sector. Himachal is a truly unifying hub for all religions. We will provide parking facilities, clean toilets, cafeterias and yatri niwas in religious tourist destinations. A project worth ₹ 100 crore for infrastructure development at religious circuit will be submitted to Government of India under “**Swadesh Darshan**” scheme.

94. Speaker Sir, Our Government will promote and concentrate on nature and adventure tourism. With 26 wildlife sanctuaries, three conservation reserves, unique National Parks, more than 400 forest rest houses, the State has unmatched potential for trekking, rafting, bird watching, mountaineering, allied and water sports. Eco tourism and home stays are the way forward.

State Government will develop Pong, Kol and Bhakra reservoirs as tourist destinations where water sports and adventure tourism activities will be developed. The State Government will frame scheme for identifying and developing new water bodies and starting water sports in the State. We will develop Tattapani by reviving its old traditional sulphur springs, beautification of the area, construction of ghats and development of water sports.

95. We will lay emphasis on installation of Ropeways so that flow of vehicles is minimized in pristine areas. Our Government proposed ropeway from Anandpur Sahib to

Naina Devi ji by signing agreement with Government of Punjab. But previous Congress Government cancelled/annulled that agreement in 2013 saying that ropeway will be installed by them very soon. However nothing was done in this matter in last five years. We will again try to install this ropeway in partnership with Punjab Government. We will also explore possibilities of installation of ropeways from Dharmkot to Triund, Janjehli to Shikari Mata and other tourist places.

96. We will develop and update website of department and also launch a mobile app for tourists containing all information in 2018-19.

We will provide training to youth on Home Stay, Cooking, Communication and marketing, behavioural, Cultural and spiritual heritage of State, Environmental protection etc. We will develop training module for trekking guides, tourist guides and taxi drivers. We will create more recreational activities in the tourist destinations to retain tourists for more days.

Employment and
Skill Development.

97. Providing livelihood and encouraging entrepreneurship amongst the unemployed youth of Himachal Pradesh is the main thrust of the present Government. In order to encourage local entrepreneurship and to provide self employment opportunities. I propose to start a new scheme named “**Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban**

Yojna". Under this scheme youth of Himachal Pradesh between the age of 18 to 35 will be provided following benefits:

1. 25 percent capital subsidy on plant and machinery upto an investment of ₹ 40 lakh in industries. Subsidy will be 30 percent in case of women entrepreneurs.

2. Interest subsidy of 5 percent for three years for a loan upto ₹ 40 lakh.

3. Government land will be given at concessional lease rate of 1 percent. The procedure of providing land at lease will be simplified.

4. If a youth intends to buy private land then the stamp duty will be charged at the rate of 3 percent instead of existing 6 percent.

Speaker Sir, may I say;

“सोचने से कहां मिलते हैं, तमन्ना के शहर।

चलने की जिद भी जरूरी है मंजिलों के लिए।।”

I propose a budget provision of ₹ 80 crore for this scheme.

Speaker Sir, There are many schemes to encourage to industries in the State but there is scheme to encourage trade and service sector which provide lot of employment opportunities. Therefore, in order to encourage this sector

I propose a new ‘**Mukhya Mantri Yuva Ajivika Yojna**’ under which trade/shop, restaurants, tour operators, adventure tourism, traditional handicrafts will be covered. I propose the following incentives under this scheme to Himachali youth between the age of 18 to 35;

1. 25 percent subsidy will be provided on the loan taken from the bank upto ₹ 30 lakh excluding land and building. The subsidy will be 30 percent in case of women entrepreneurs.

2. Interest subsidy at the rate of 5 percent for three years upto a loan of ₹ 30 lakh for three years.

3. The stamp duty on purchase of land or building for starting trade or service will be charged at the rate of 3 percent instead of existing 6 percent.

I propose a budget provision of ₹ 75 crore for this scheme in 2018-19.

Speaker Sir, may I say here;

“वही हकदार हैं किनारों के,
जो बदल दें बहाव धारों के।”

Speaker Sir, there is a need to instill entrepreneurship in unemployed youth of Himachal Pradesh so that they could feel confident in setting up their own ventures. The State Government will conduct entrepreneurship development programmes in order to

Stimulate Entrepreneurship among them. State Government will also tie up with banks to conduct such courses in Rural Self Employment Training Institutes.

98. Speaker Sir, the State Government attaches a lot of importance to Skill Development as it is gateway for gainful employment. The State Government will implement “**Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushalya Yojna**” under which I propose a budget provision of ₹ 77 crore for 2018-19. The State Government is also implementing Asian Development Bank assisted Skill Development Programme under which 65 thousand youth will be provided skilling linked with placement. I am also happy to inform that the State Government has received first installment of ₹ 21.56 crore under “**Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna**” under which 49,500 unemployed youth of Himachal Pradesh will be provided job related skilling.

May I say here;

“वो खुद ही तय करते है मंजिल आसमानों की,
परिन्दों को नहीं दी जाती तालीम उड़ानों की।।”

99. The State Government will continue to implement the Skill Development Allowance Scheme to facilitate skilling of Himachalli youth. Speaker Sir, one of the reason for unemployment of Himachali youth is their lack of fluency in English speaking. The State Government will facilitate training in spoken English to unemployed youth by empanelling good institutes.

I am happy to announce that the State Government will also extend Skill Development Allowance for two years to all new employees employed in industries after attaining skills under Skill Development Allowance. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 100 crore for this scheme.

100. We will provide skill training to SC, OBC, Minority, Specially abled single women, widows and deserted women for increasing their employability. We will be providing training and free coaching assistance through Himachal Pradesh University Shimla for students belonging to SC, ST, OBC and Minority whose family annual income is not more than ₹ 3 lakh. We will formulate a comprehensive action plan for providing job and training opportunities to Persons with Disabilities in the private sector.

Un-employment
Allowance.

101. Speaker Sir, the previous Government in their election manifesto announced that they will provide unemployment allowance to all the unemployed youth in Himachal Pradesh. However, they failed miserably in fulfilling their main announcement, and gave this allowance to only 21,000 youth for just last three months.

Labour &
Employment.

102. Speaker Sir, the process of registration/ renewal of establishments under Labour Laws has been made online. I propose to convert all Employment Exchanges as 'Skill Identification Centres' and 'Model Carrier Guidance Centres.' The counselling of unemployed youth will enhance employment and placement avenues. The Job fairs and

campus interviews play an important role to increase placement opportunities to skilled workforce. We propose to organize more such job fairs and campus interviews in every district and block.

103. Speaker Sir, Himachal Pradesh has minimum expansion of rail, air and water transport services. Therefore, Road Transport is the main mode of transportation in the State. The HRTC is providing transport facilities in the remotest corners of the State. I propose to provide ₹ 300 crore as grant and equity to HRTC in 2018-19 as against ₹ 265 crore during the last budget.

Transport.

104. Speaker Sir, Transport Department will launch online system for the welfare of the people to implement various public services. We will install PoS machines at RTO and RLA offices so that various taxes and fees are paid through cashless facility. HRTC will introduce swipe/tap machines in buses in which payment could be made through electronic cash cards to reduce the hassle of passengers for payment. HRTC will also issue electronic cards to the exempted categories of passengers so that State Government could release the grant-in-aid as per the usage of the buses by the pass holders/exempted categories.

Speaker Sir, the commuters by road, especially in the rural areas have to wait for a bus for long hours without even knowing the approximate time of arrival of the next bus

they wish to board. I propose to install electronic display boards at all the bus stands and selected bus stops of the State displaying the probable time of arrival of next bus on a particular route.

105. Speaker Sir, many State Governments have implemented scheme of registration of new vehicles at dealer point itself without customers having to visit Transport Department. The State Government will roll out a software for Online Registration of vehicles at dealer point itself. The Token Tax, Registration fee, Green Tax, etc. shall be collected by the dealers online through cyber treasury and complete file shall be sent to Registering Authority for assigning number.

Further, the e-Auction/Bidding of choice number shall also be rolled out by fixing the reserve price of selected choice numbers.

The department will also implement Online Check post solution for the barriers like e-Way Bill for the tourist vehicles entering into the state in order to avoid stopping the vehicles at the entry barriers for payment of composite fee.

106. Speaker Sir, the transport sector, especially the road transport has a vast potential of creating employment opportunities to the local youth living in the rural areas of the State. I propose to provide 1,500 new bus permits to unemployed youth of the State during 2018-19.

We also aim at providing best possible facilities in all the bus stands. I propose an additional outlay of ₹ 17 crore to the Bus Stand Management and Development Authority.

I also propose an allocation of ₹ 3 crore for construction of toilets blocks at the bus stands. The operation of these toilet blocks at bus stands will be given to reputed organizations.

107. Our Government accords high priority to the development of National Highways. The Government of India has sanctioned 69 National Highways in the State for which people of State express their gratitude to the Central Government. Although the Government of India had declared National Highways way back in 2016, nothing much was done to engage the consultants for preparation of the DPRs. Till December 2017, consultants had been engaged only for 8 roads. Our Government will Endeavour that consultants for all roads are engaged by the end of this month so that the DPR preparation work is completed expeditiously.

Bridging the
infrastructure gaps

108. Speaker Sir, Four laning of two National Highways from Parwanoo to Shimla and Kiratpur to Manali is in progress involving a cost of ₹ 9,040 crore. Recently, Government of India had also entrusted three more National Highways that is Baddi to Nalagarh, Pathankot to Mandi, Shimla to Matour to NHAI. Bids have already been invited for four laning from Baddi to Nalagarh, from Chakki to Sihuni and from Jawalamukhi to Kangra.

109. Under the dynamic leadership of our former Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the “**Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna**” was started in the year, 2000-2001 to provide all weather connectivity to rural habitations. Himachal Pradesh has greatly benefitted under this scheme and till date 2,238 roads have been completed with an expenditure of ₹ 2,919 crore.

110. Speaker Sir, most of the MLAs in the Plan Budget Meeting highlighted the poor conditions of roads. I agree with them. I propose that a mechanism of third party inspection will be started to ensure the quality of the roads. In addition to this an independent Quality Check Squad will be established under Chief Minister Office. This squad will carry out surprise inspections of construction works and submit report directly to the Chief Minister Office. I hope that this step will ensure quality in construction activities in the State.

Moreover, I propose to enhance the target of tarring of existing State roads from 1,785 kilometers to 2,500 Kilometers for the year 2018-19, which is an enhancement of nearly 40 percent. A provision of additional ₹ 100 crore has been made during the financial year 2017-18 and ₹ 100 crore is proposed to be provided in the budget during 2018-19 for maintenance of the existing roads. I also propose to create a dedicated fund for maintenance of roads.

To improve the riding quality, the State Government undertook a pilot project under OPBMC (Output and

Performance-Based Maintenance Contract). Currently 347 kilometers are under this maintenance arrangement. I propose to bring another 350 kilometers under this arrangement in the next financial year.

The conditions of roads deteriorate in the absence of cross drainage and side drainage. I propose to start a new Scheme “**Himachal Road Improvement Scheme**” to fill the gaps in cross drainage of the existing roads. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 50 crore for 2018-19.

111. To shorten distances, there is a great need to construct tunnels. Our Government has taken up the matter with Government of India for construction of a Tunnel under Jalori Pass on Sainj-Luhari-Aut road on NH-305. Its tentative length is 4.2 Kilometers.

Speaker Sir, in many European countries, more snow fall takes place than Himachal Pradesh. Roads remain open by continuous clearing of snow through machines. The State Government will invite international bidding for keeping the Sachh Pass, Jalori Pass, Khara Pathar and Rohtang Pass with permission of BRO, open during winters.

112. Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted a proposal (HP State Road Project-II-), to the Government of India for funding from the World Bank. Under HPSRP-II, 650 Kilometers of Major District Roads will be upgraded and 1,350 Kilometer road length will be provided periodic

maintenance besides other institutional development activities. The State Government has also obtained the approval of Ministry of Finance, Government of India for Tranche-I of Phase II amounting to around ₹ 720 crore. The World Bank has also approved an advance of ₹ 22 crore for the project preparatory activities.

113. Our Government accords utmost priority to road safety. Our Government has decided to undertake safety audit of major bridges through 3rd party consultancy across the State.

The State Government has received a report from the agency running 108 Ambulance service intimating that there are 697 black spots in the State which are prone to accidents. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 50 crore for 2018-19 for improving the road alignment, sign boards, parapets etc. at the identified black spots.

I am happy to provide ₹ 50 crore under “**Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojna**” to accelerate road connectivity to villages/habitations.

During 2018-19, we propose construction of 600 kilometers of motorable roads and 35 bridges. The metalling and tarring of 1,100 kilometers new roads would also be carried out, besides carrying out the cross drainage of 750 kilometers.

I propose a budget outlay of ₹ 4,082 crore for the Public Works Department during 2018-19.

114. Speaker Sir, Ministry of Railways has made a provision of ₹ 422 crore in 2018-19 to expand the Rail network in the State. The budget has been provided for construction of four Railway lines, Nangal Dam-Talwara, Chandigarh-Baddi, Bhanupali-Bilaspur and Una-Hamirpur railway lines.

115. Speaker Sir, Public Public Partnership (PPP) is a good mode for building up of infrastructure and public service delivery. We will build parking and commercial complexes at available land in urban areas to increase the income of Urban Local Bodies. We will also build bridges, tunnels and alternate roads through this model. For providing better diagnostic facilities in hospitals, we will take steps for installing high end instruments under PPP mode.

PPP Mode.

116. Speaker Sir, there are a large number of pending cases under VAT and CST for assessments. We will bring "The Himachal Pradesh Settlement of Pending Assessment Cases Bill", 2018 in order to dispose of these cases, for the benefit of the dealers.

Excise &
Taxation.

117. Speaker Sir, the State Government has decided to wind-up Himachal Pradesh Beverages Limited and to restore the old system of wholesale for liquor sale in the State to weed out corruption in wholesale supply of liquor. The unwanted system of L-1D & L-13D licensees have been discontinued. Further, end to end computerization for Excise functions shall be rolled out enabling effective monitoring of entire chain from production to consumption.

118. On heavy demand from traders of the State, we have taken up the matter with the GST Council to increase the threshold limit for registration under GST in Himachal Pradesh from ₹10 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh and we hope that this demand of the traders will be fulfilled soon.

Quality Education. **119.** Speaker Sir, Himachal has large number of educational institutions. Now the main challenge before the Government is to improve the quality of education.

The State Government will provide adequate infrastructure in the educational institutions. 2,137 Government Senior Secondary and High Schools have been equipped with the smart class rooms. The State Government will ensure that the teaching learning activities in these schools take place through multimedia teaching aids. The Government will establish 36 language labs in schools to increase reading/ pronunciation skills. Assessment of elementary students will be done as per the learning outcomes fixed by the Government of India. SCERT and DIET will be made more meaningful to improve quality in education. SCERT will be involved in preparing syllabus for Yoga. The department will also conduct joy of learning classes in the school to increase teaching learning.

I am happy to announce that our Government is endeavoring to set up a robust and transparent transfer and posting mechanism for the teachers.

The Government of India in budget for 2018-19 declared a scheme for establishing “**Ekalavya Model Residential Schools**” in every block with more than 50 percent scheduled tribe population. The State Government will take up the matter with Government of India for opening such schools in the State.

120. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to provide quality education. Therefore, in order to provide quality education, basic facilities are to be provided in the schools. We will launch a new scheme “मुख्यमंत्री आदर्श विद्या केन्द्र” Under this scheme, one model residential school will be established in each constituency, where Navodya schools and Eklavya Schools do not exist. Education will be free of cost with hostel facilities available at such schools. We will establish 10 such model schools in the first phase and I propose a budget provision of ₹ 25 crore for 2018-19.

121. Speaker Sir, the students spend a lot of money on purchase of new text books. At the same time the students once pass a class throw the books and buy the new books for next year. Now, I propose that in all Government Schools in Himachal Pradesh, next day immediately after the completion of the exams will be held as a “**Book Donation Day**”. That day students of higher class will hand over books to lower class, helping the students to reduce their cost of purchase of books.

122. Speaker Sir, the BJP Government in 2011 started the '**Atal Vardi Yojna**' under which the students were provided two uniforms in a year. I am now happy to announce that the students of 1st, 3rd, 6th and 9th class will be provided school bags also under this scheme.

123. In order to foster curiosity and creativity in young minds '**Atal Tinkering Labs**' will be set up in selected schools where students work with tools and equipments to understand the concept of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) under '**Atal Innovation Mission**' of Government of India.

The State Government will declare one day in a month as Bag Free Day in every school so that, that day is fully devoted for co-curricular activities in the school.

124. A new programme named "**Akhand Shiksha Jyoti, Mere School se Nikle Moti**" to honour passed out students from the Government Schools who made a mark in life. The local communities and Gram Panchayats will be associated with this scheme.

125. Speaker Sir, it is important to prepare our talented students to prepare for competitive exams. The 10+2 students need coaching to appear in JEE mains and NEET and for other higher educational institutes. The pass out of colleges need to prepare for the job related competitive exams like civil services. For this purpose, I propose a new

scheme called “मेधा प्रोत्साहन योजना” to provide stipend / coaching assistance to take coaching in and outside State. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 5 crore for this purpose. May I say here;

“नन्हीं सी चींटी जब दाना लेकर चलती है,
चढ़ती दीवारों पर, सौ बार फिसलती है,
आखिर उसकी मेहनत बेकार नहीं होती,
कोशिश करने वालों की कभी हार नहीं होती।।”

126. I am happy to announce that the State Government will provide ₹ 110 crore to Himachal Pradesh University as grant-in-aid. This is the highest per student grant to any State University in the Country.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 7,044 crore for Department of Education for 2018-19.

127. Speaker Sir, Technical Education and Vocational Industrial Training play a vital role in enhancing the employability skills of the youth of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal has 124 Government and 148 private ITIs with intake capacity 25,449 and 22,335 students respectively. State has 696 seats per lakh population in ITIs compared to 212 student seats at the national level.

Technical
Education.

To meet the skill need of the industry this sector requires close coordination with the private sector. To bridge the skill gaps our Government shall prepare District wise plans. Based upon such plans, the technical courses will be suitably re-oriented so that the students get training in

accordance with the needs of the Labour markets. The work of new polytechnics at Rehan with cost of ₹ 25 crore will be started in next few months.

128. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of our State. We will introduce Miniaturized Cultural Souvenirs of Himachal Pradesh to boost awareness of rich Himachali Heritage. We will organize Shilp Gram Melas in various parts of the State for the sale/demonstration of various artefacts prepared by talented artists.

In order to preserve vanishing Manuscripts and rare books, the department will carry out their digitization and create a digital library for the benefit of researchers and students

Speaker Sir, I announce a new Scheme “आज पुरानी राहों से”. Under this scheme, heritage guides will tell about dignitaries, folk core, historic events, unexplored cultural heritage etc. This will boost cultural tourism and help in preserving cultural identity of the State.

I propose a budget provision of ₹ 25 crore for construction of indoor auditorium at District Headquarters where such facility does not exists. Famous litterateur and artists of the State participate in the preservation of literature and culture of the State. The daily allowance and remuneration to Senior and Junior Poets/Writers/Litterateur

at District, State and National level programmes shall be increased by 50 percent.

I am happy to announce a new scheme “देव भूमि दर्शन” to provide transport facility for senior citizens of the State to visit different religious places in the State.

129. Speaker Sir, the State Government is committed to provide National level sports infrastructure in the State with a view to organize high end sports competitions in the State and to harness potential of budding sports persons. I propose ₹ 15 crore for construction of multipurpose indoor complexes in the District where such facility is not available.

Youth Services
& Sports.

Under “मुख्यमन्त्री खेल विकास योजना.” one big play field will be developed in each Vidhan Sabha Constituency. I am making a provision of ₹ 6.80 crore for this purpose.

I also propose a budget provision of ₹ 2 crore for renovation of existing sports facilities in the State.

130. Speaker Sir, Journalists play a very useful role for the society. I propose that financial assistance to the serving and retired accredited Journalists for medical emergency will be increased from existing ₹ 50 thousand to ₹ 2.5 lakh under the “Himachal Pradesh Patrakar Kalyan Yojna” in 2018-19. I propose to withdraw present annual income of ₹ 1.8 lakh so that all accredited journalists benefits from this scheme.

Information &
Public Relations.

131. Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform that Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 1,351 crore for establishment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Kothipura in District Bilaspur. This will be one of the biggest Medical Institute in the North India to be constructed under “**Prime Minister Health Protection Programme**” in Himachal Pradesh.

132. Speaker Sir, the State Government would like to encourage private hospital facilities in rural area of Himachal Pradesh. I am happy to announce a new “स्वास्थ्य में सहभागिता योजना”. Under this scheme, if any person/doctor establishes a private allopathic hospital in identified rural areas, then he will be provided an investment subsidy of 25 percent for establishment of hospital up to an investment of ₹ 1 crore and 5 percent interest subsidy for three years on the loan taken from the bank.

133. Under “**Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna**” 4,83,693 families are registered under the Scheme, which get cashless treatment to the tune of ₹ 30,000 under Basic Package and ₹ 1,75,000 under Critical and ₹ 2,25,000 for cancer patient. Similarly, “**Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme**” is being implemented to provide health care facilities on the lines of RSBY. Further, these benefits are extended to other families under the “**Himachal Pradesh Universal Health Protection Scheme**” with a premium of ₹ 365 a year.

Speaker Sir, Government of India in Union budget announcement to launch on ambitious National Health Protection Scheme providing coverage of upto 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. This will be the biggest health care scheme in the world.

I am happy to announce that the State Government will implement this scheme for the beneficiaries covered under the “**Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme**”. Further, the scheme will also be extended to beneficiaries under the Himachal Pradesh Universal Health Protection Scheme” with a suitable premium

134. Speaker sir, our Government aims to make the State as one of the healthiest States in India. To achieve this goal, a new Scheme called, “मुख्यमन्त्री निरोग योजना” will be implemented by the Department. Basic health checkup shall include Random Blood sugar checkup, Blood pressure measurement, Eye checkup and other tests requiring lab tests will be done. This will enable spotting of potential problems in their early stages, prevent long term illness through early diagnosis and treatment.

135. Speaker Sir, earlier we were providing 66 drugs under the free drug policy which has now been increased to 330 drugs. I announce to provide a budget outlay of ₹ 50 crore for this purpose. We will provide free treatment for Haemophilia and free insulin for children upto 18 years.

Immunization campaign of last year for Measles and Rubella was a remarkable success. At present immunization rate is 95 percent. We will try to achieve 100 percent immunization in next year.

136. Speaker Sir, Children are our future and their health is of paramount importance. At present a cash incentive of ₹ 700 is given to mother for every institutional delivery. I am happy to announce that a new scheme called “**Mukhya Mantri Aashirwad Scheme**” will be launched in the State under which all new born will be provided a baby kit worth ₹ 1,500. This will benefit nearly 1 lakh new borns in every year. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 15 crore for 2018-19.

Speaker Sir, I may say here;

“तुम अपने पास रखो, अपनी रोशनी का हिसाब।
मुझे तो आखिरी घर तक दीया जलाना है।।”

Sanitary napkins are essential for personal hygiene for adolescent girls. I am happy to announce that all the girls studying in schools upto 10+2 will be provided packet of sanitary napkins at a cost of ₹ 1 per packet instead of ₹ 5 per packet at present. These packets will be distributed by the ASHA workers. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 4 crore for this purpose.

137. Speaker Sir, IGMC is the premium medical institution of the State but facility of kidney transplant is not available here. Due to this, patients have to outside the state for this and have to spend a lot of money. I am happy to

announce that from this year kidney transplant facility will be created in the IGMC. I propose a budget outlay of ₹ 4 crore for this purpose in 2018-19.

Speaker Sir, 108 Ambulances Service is playing a important role for conveyance of patients. I propose to levy a cess of ₹1 per bottle of liquor in order to provide for operational expenditure of this ambulance service. This will fetch around ₹ 8 crore per annum.

The health care facilities to residents in remote and far flung areas of the State can be provided in a cost effective way through telemedicine. I propose that 50 Health Sub-Centres in the State will be brought under telemedicine system.

At present telemedicine programme is running in Keylong, Kaza and Pooh. I proposed to cover Pangi under this scheme.

138. Speaker Sir, I propose constitution of a new “मुख्यमन्त्री चिकित्सा सहायता कोष” to provide assistance to needy poor people of the State who are having serious ailments. I propose a budget provision of ₹10 crore in 2018-19 for this fund. Rules for seeking help from fund will be framed soon.

139. Speaker Sir, consumption of tobacco is the major cause of cancer. We will launch awareness campaigns under “**Tobacco Free Institutions Campaign**” in Himachal

Pradesh. The campus of Himachal Pradesh university and Himachal Pradesh Secretariat will be made “**Tobacco free**” by counseling and other measures to become model for other public institutions.

I propose a budget outlay of ₹ 2,302 crore for Health and Medical Education Department. I wish to inform that Himachal Pradesh budget on health is the highest per capita budget in the country amongst all the States.

Ayurvedic.

140. Ayurvedic medicinal herbs are in great demand in the health sector and the commercialization of the farming of such herbs has promising potential to raise income of farmers. The department will facilitate the tie up of farmers with major pharmacies in the country for marketing of herbs.

Department will also start pilot project for prevention of anaemia in three identified blocks Karsog, Kasauli and Theog. We will implement National Nutrition Mission in Chamba, Hamirpur, Solan and Shimla in 2018-19.

I propose a budget allocation of ₹ 263 crore for Ayurveda during 2018-19.

Women & Child Development.

141. Speaker Sir, yesterday we celebrated International Women’s Day. I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all women in the State.

I am happy to announce a new comprehensive “सशक्त महिला योजना”. The objective of this scheme is to

provide an interface for rural women by empowering them through Awareness Generation, Training and Capacity Building. This scheme will be implemented at Mahila Mandals by establishing सशक्त स्त्री केन्द्र. This kendra will focus on increasing awareness among rural women about their rights and to empower them through training. These centres will also focus on menstrual hygiene of adolescent girls and to build their self-esteem.

Our Government is committed to reduce sex discrimination. For this I propose to enhance critical care package from existing ₹ 1,75,000 to ₹ 2,50,000 for families having one or two girl child. Additional assistance of ₹ 75,000 will be payable to the girls for their medical care. Girls will get more health care facilities.

142. Speaker Sir, the State Government is providing an assistance of ₹ 4,000 per annum per child to destitute/ widow women upto two children under “Mother Teresa Matri Ashray Sambal Yojna”. I am happy to raise it to ₹ 5,000 per annum with a budget provision of ₹ 10 crore.

The State government is providing ₹ 10,000 on birth of girl child to the BPL families under the “**Beti Hai Anmol Yojna**”. I propose to enhance it to ₹ 12,000. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 12 crore for this scheme.

Speaker Sir, may I say;

“शर्त लगी थी खुशियों को एक लफ्ज़ में लिखने की वो किताब ढूँढते रह गए, मैंने “बेटी” लिख दिया ।”

143. Speaker Sir, the BJP believes in development of all sections of our society, especially the disadvantaged groups. Our Government took a historic decision to earmark Plan Budget in proportion to the scheduled caste population in the State and introduced Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan in our previous regime. I propose an allocation of ₹ 1,583 crore under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan for 2018-19.

144. State Government is providing social security pension to more than four lakh persons of different categories under various pension schemes. I am pleased to enhance the rate of pension to ₹ 750 per month. I am also happy to enhance the pension of persons having disabilities 70 percent and above and persons aged 70 years and above to ₹ 1,300 per month.

I propose a budget provision of ₹ 600 crore for Social Security Pension Scheme.

Speaker Sir,

“ज्यादा खाहिशें नहीं हैं जिन्दगी तुझ से,
बस मेरा हर कदम, पिछले से बेहतर हो।।”

145. To encourage specially abled students to continue their studies, Department proposes to enhance the rate of scholarship per month for specially abled students by 25 percent from existing rates.

146. As an honour to the Senior Citizens, I am happy to announce the opening of “**Varishth Naagrik Suvidha**

Kendra” with nursing facilities in few places in Himachal Pradesh to provide care to the elderlies. These Kendras shall be managed by the NGOs and State Government will provide grant to them.

Speaker Sir, may I say;

“देखना कभी नम न हों घर के बुजुर्गों की आँखें,
छत से पानी टपके तो दीवारें कमजोर होती हैं।”

147. Development of Scheduled Tribes in the State is a high priority of our Government. Accordingly, I propose an outlay of ₹ 567 crore for the next financial year under the Tribal Sub-Plan which constitutes 9 percent of the total State Plan. This amount will be spent in areas such as of irrigation, horticulture and vegetable cultivation, roads, education, health, drinking water supply etc. as per the priorities identified on a decentralized basis for each of the five tribal regions of Kinnaur, Lahaul, Spiti, Pangi and Bharmour.

Tribal
Development.

I propose a total budget allocation for tribal areas to be ₹ 1,620 crore including the Non-Plan.

148. Speaker Sir, welfare of Ex-Servicemen, Serving Soldiers, War Widows and Gallantry Award Winners is prime concern of the present Government.

Welfare of Ex-
Servicemen &
Freedom
Fighters.

The previous Government had decided to discontinue the financial benefits of approved Military services to Ex-Servicemen. Our Government has decided to restore these benefits to the Ex-Servicemen.

The State Government was providing Compassionate employment to the kin of the martyrs of the Armed Forces. Now, we have decided that this benefit will be provided to the Himachali martyrs of the paramilitary Forces, as well.

Home/Law &
Order.

149. Speaker Sir, the image of the police had taken a beating due to infamous Gudia case. This incident was a matter of great shame. Therefore our focus areas would be addressing crimes against women promptly, crackdown heavily on forests and mining mafia, drug mafia and reducing traffic accidents. Our Government will take effective steps for safety and security of women. To empower girls and to instil confidence in them while dealing with eve-teasers and anti social elements, we will achieve the target of 100 percent in self defence training programme in Government Schools.

150. I propose to establish three new all women police stations one each in Solan, Hamirpur and Chamba Districts during 2018-19.

151. Recently the Finger Print Bureau has been shifted to FSL for bringing scientific acumen to the task and also to run it more efficiently and professionally State will acquire own Automated Finger Print Identification System(AFIS) and live scanners. This will help in maintaining a data bank of criminals. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 2 crore for this purpose.

e-challan system will also be launched on pilot basis to compound traffic violations on the spot.

₹ 40 crore will be provided for police housing in 2018-19.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 1,430 crore for the Department of Home i.e. Police, Home Guards, Fire Services and Prisons.

152. The State Government is implementing World Bank aided “**Public Financial Management Capacity Building Project**” with an outlay of ₹ 240 crore. In order to increase capacities at least two officials of all DDOs in the state will be imparted training in running e-Bill system. We will integrate with HPSEBL, IPH and BSNL for direct online payment of electricity, Water and Telephone bills of DDOs directly into the accounts of these entities. We will also AADHAR seed e-Salary database of employees, which will enable error free payments into bank accounts of employees through National Payments Corporation of India.

Treasuries

153. Our Government will make effort to ensure pension to everybody of unorganized sector under ‘Atal Pension Yojna’ in the State. All the subscribers registered under APY till 31.3.2019 shall be provided co-contribution of ₹ 2, 000 or 50 percent of their contribution whichever is less from State side. I propose budget provision of ₹ 10 crore for this scheme for 2018-19.

Social Security
for Unorganized
Sectors.

154. Speaker Sir, employees are backbone of the State Government. The State Government has increased maternity leave in case of contractual women employees from 135 to 180 days. The State Government has released 3 percent Dearness Allowance with effect from 1st July, 2017. We have also released 8 percent Interim Relief to the Regular Employees and Pensioners with effect from 1st January, 2016 giving an additional benefit of ₹ 700 crore. No Government in the past has given such big benefits to the employees in first two months in office.

I am happy to announce an additional Interim Relief of 4 percent on basic pay/basic pension to regular State Government Employees/ Pensioners from 1st July, 2017. This benefit will be due to the tune of ₹ 260 crore. This Interim Relief will be absorbed in future pay/pension revision. I am sure that this decision will make the employees and pensioners happy. The contract employees are getting emoluments equal to basic plus grade pay and 75 percent of grade pay. I am happy to announce that in 2018-19, the contact employees will be given emoluments equal to basic pay plus double of the grade pay.

Speaker Sir, I propose to increase honorarium of Part Time Water Carrier from ₹ 1,900 to ₹ 2,200 per month. Mid-day Meal Workers are paid ₹ 1,000 per month by the Government of India. State Government is providing additional ₹ 500 to them. I propose to increase it to ₹ 800

per month. I also announce to enhance remuneration of SMC Teachers by 20 percent per month.

ASHA Workers are paid incentive based on the activities performed by them. I propose to raise incentive being paid to them by State Government to ₹ 1,250 from existing ₹ 1,000. Anganwari workers and helpers are paid honorarium by Government of India under ICDS. I propose to provide ₹ 1,750 as additional honorarium to Anganwari Workers by State Government, with this their total honorarium will be ₹ 4,750 per month. Anganwari helpers will be provided ₹ 900 as additional honorarium by the State Government. With this increase they will get ₹ 2,400 per month as total honorarium. I propose to increase honorarium of Water Guards from ₹ 1,700 to ₹ 2,100 per month.

The Daily wagers are getting ₹ 210 per day. I am happy to raise it to ₹ 225 per day, giving benefit of ₹ 450 per month to such workers.

I also propose to provide ₹ 65 crore for construction of new residences of the Government Employees and ₹ 25 crore for repair of Government residences.

Our Government in every cabinet is taking decision to fill up functional posts. I want to inform this August House that the State Government will fill up the functional posts in all Government departments.

155. Speaker Sir, now I come to the Macro Budget Estimation for 2018-19 and Revised Estimates for 2017-18. As per the Revised Estimates for 2017-18, the revenue Deficit will be 1.93 percent and Fiscal Deficit will be 5.46 percent of GSDP. In 2018-19, the revenue Deficit will be 2.09 percent and Fiscal deficit will be 5.16 percent of GSDP. As required by the FRBM Act, I am separately presenting the Medium Term Fiscal Plan of the State Government for the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. The full details of the next year's budget are available in the comprehensive budget documents being tabled in this August House.

156. The Total Budget Expenditure estimated for 2018-19 is ₹ 41,440 crore, out of which Estimated Expenditure on Salaries is ₹ 11,263 crore, on Pensions it would be ₹ 5,893 crore, Estimated Interest Payments would be ₹ 4,260 crore, and Loan Repayments are expected to be ₹ 3,184 crore apart from ₹ 448 crore on other Loans and ₹ 2,741 crore on Maintenance.

157. As per Budget Estimates for 2018-19, the total Revenue Receipts are estimated at ₹ 30,400 crore and the total Revenue Expenditure is estimated to be ₹ 33,568 crore with a revenue Deficit of ₹ 3,168 crore. the expected Receipts in capital Account of the Government are ₹ 6,540 crore apart from ₹ 1,225 crore in Public Account including Provident Fund, etc. Capital Expenditure including Loan Repayments is estimated to be ₹ 7,872 crore. The fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is likely to be ₹ 7,821 crore.

158. Thus, as per the Budget Estimates, against an expenditure of every 100 rupees, the State will have 73.36 as the Total Receipt including Transfers from the Central government excluding Loans. The gap of 26.64 will be met by borrowings. Out of every 100 rupees of State Revenue Receipts 27.13 will accrue from Own Tax revenues, 6.52 from Non-Tax Revenues 21.01 from Share in Central Taxes and 45.34 from Central Grants. out of every 100 rupees spent, salaries will account for 27.18, Pensions for 14.22, Interest Payments for 10.28, Loan Repayments for 8.76 and the remaining 39.56 will be spent on Developmental works.

159. Speaker Sir, I would like to summaries the highlights of the Budget.

Highlights.

- Adoption of BJP '**Drishtipatra**' as the policy document to guide the development policies of the present Government.
- Lowering the age from 80 years to 70 years for providing old age pension to all, without any income limit.
- Gudia & Hoshiar Singh helplines and '**Shakti App**' launched.
- New "मुख्यमन्त्री लोक भवन" Scheme launched for constructing Community Bhawan with an outlay of ₹ 30 lakh in every constituency.
- Grant under "**Vidhayak Khsetra Vikaas Nidhi Yojana**" raised to ₹ 1.25 crore.
- Discretionary grant raised to ₹ 7 lakh.

- Public Works and IPH will roll out Works Management Information System.
- New e-stamping system will be launched.
- All the tenders above ₹ 5 lakh will be carried out online using e-Procurement portal.
- Budget provision of ₹ 220 crore under state food subsidy scheme.
- New “हिमाचल गृहिणी सुविधा योजना” will be launched for women empowerment and environment conservation.
- Under the World Bank funded Horticulture Development Project of ₹ 1,134 crore, nearly ₹ 100 crore to be spent in 2018-19.
- ₹ 500 crore to be spent for Command Area Development in five years. A budget provision of ₹ 130 crore in 2018-19.
- ₹ 277 crore for Minor Irrigation Schemes.
- ₹ 85 crore for Medium Irrigation schemes.
- New Scheme, “जल से कृषि को बल” with a budget of ₹ 250 crore for five years launched.
- New “**Flow Irrigation Scheme**” with an outlay of ₹ 150 crore for next five years launched.
- New scheme “**Solar Irrigation Scheme**” launched with a budget outlay of ₹ 200 crore for next five years.
- Electricity to farmers for irrigation purpose to be provided at 75 paise per unit in place of existing ₹ 1 per unit.

- Levy of Certain Goods Carried by Roads(CGCR) on apple, other fruits and vegetables withdrawn from 2018-19.
- New scheme “**Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan**” with an allocation of ₹ 25 crore will be launched.
- Investment subsidy of 50 percent for bio-pesticides plants.
- Subsidy of 40 percent on machinery for setting up of “**Agriculture Equipment Hiring Centres**”.
- ₹ 32 crore for subsidy to farmers/horticulturists on power weeders and power tillers etc.
- Budget provision for anti hail nets increased from ₹ 2.27 crore to ₹ 10 crore.
- 60 percent subsidy under new “**बागवानी सुरक्षा योजना**” for anti hail-guns with budget of ₹ 10 crore.
- Subsidy of 85 percent for installing solar fencing by three or more farmers with a budget provision of ₹ 35 crore under “**Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojna**”.
- ₹ 1,000 crore phase-II project under JICA to cover all the Districts for crop diversification.
- New scheme, “**Himachal Pushp Utpadan Yojna**” with an allocation of ₹ 10 crore launched.
- ₹ 29 crore for “**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna**” and for “**Weather Based Insurance Scheme**”.
- ₹ 150 crore proposed for upgradation and opening of new Mandis under world bank project.

- Freight subsidy of ₹ 1 per litre to dairy cooperatives to compensate for collection and distribution of milk.
- Enhancement of milk procurement price by ₹ 1 per liter.
- 10 and 20 percent Additional subsidy under '**Dairy Udhyaami Vikas Yojna**'
- 50 percent subsidy to the BPL farmers of general category for rearing Desi cows.
- New "मुख्यमन्त्री मधु विकास योजना" launched with a budget of ₹ 10 crore for providing 80 percent subsidy.
- Exemption on stamp duty and investment subsidy of 50 percent on plant and machinery for establishing of fish feed unit.
- Setting up of Gau-Sewa Aayog announced.
- Amendment in H.P. Religious Endowments and Temple Trust Act to ear mark at least 15 percent of offerings in the temples towards construction, maintenance and running of Gau-Sadans announced.
- Gau Vansh Vikas cess on every bottle of liquor sold in the State collecting ₹8 crore per annum.
- Government land on token lease of ₹ 1 for setting up of Gau-Sadans.
- Award of ₹ 10 lakh to Panchayat free of abandoned cattle.
- Houses destroyed due to natural calamities to be provided funds under "Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojna" for reconstruction.
- 33 percent subsidy on pick-up van to encourage waste collectors in rural areas

- Gram Gaurav Patt in every panchayat.
- No. of days for providing employment under MGNREGA increase from 100 to 120 in view of drought for 2018-19.
- “**Moksh Dhaam**” in each panchayat will be constructed in a phased manner.
- ₹ 45 crore for members of Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samities for undertaking development activities in their areas.
- ₹ 194 crore to the PRIs as per the recommendations of 5th State Finance Commission.
- Honourarium of representatives of PRIs and ULBs enhanced.
- New scheme “**Van Samridhi Jan Samridhi**” will be launched to provide livelihood.
- ₹ 125 crore for Forest Department under externally aided projects.
- New scheme “**Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojna**” will be launched.
- New scheme “**Vidyarthi Van Mitra**” launched.
- New “**युवा विज्ञान पुरस्कार**” scheme to encourage young students towards science launched.
- New, “**Shresth Shahar Yojna**” launched.
- “National Generic Document Registration System” for online registration of documents for anywhere registration proposed.
- Hand pumps to individual beneficiaries on 75 percent cost.

- ₹ 500 crore to IPH for meeting energy charges for water supply and irrigation schemes.
- Simplification of various procedures for increasing investments.
- **Him Pragti**” online monitoring system to monitor investment and infrastructure progress to be started.
- Policy of partial reimbursement of net SGST paid to be formulated.
- Bidding of cement plant at Broh Shind in Chamba District and Nohradhar in Sirmour District.
- Budget provision of ₹ 35 crore for BBNDA.
- ₹ 4 crore for widening of road between Barotiwala-Mandhala-Parwanoo and Barotiwala-Gunnai- Parwanoo.
- Electricity Duty reduced from 4 percent to 2 percent on Small industries and 10 percent to 7 percent on medium industries.
- Lease of land for industrial plots to be given for 90 years instead of 30 years at present.
- No electricity duty on new small and medium industries for first five years.
- Necessary changes in the Hydro Power Policy to be carried out.
- Equity contribution of ₹ 50 crore to HPSEBL for improving the voltage in rural areas.
- ₹ 475 crore for subsidizing electricity to the domestic and Agriculture consumers.

- New scheme “नई राहें, नई मंजिलें”. announced for development of virgin destinations with a budget provision of ₹ 50 crore.
- Proposal for development of basic infrastructure for second phase under ADB project to Government of India.
- Heli taxi services to be started and more helipads to be constructed.
- A project of ₹ 100 crore for infrastructure development at religious circuit to be submitted to Government of India under “**Swadesh Darshan**” scheme.
- Religious and adventure tourism to be promoted in a big way.
- Pong, Kol and Bhakra reservoirs to be developed for water sports and adventure tourism.
- Water Sports, beautification of the area, construction of ghats and reviving of sulphur springs at Tattapani.
- Efforts will be made to install ropeway from Sri Anandpur Sahib to Sri Naini Deviji in partnership with Punjab Government.
- Exploration of possibilities of installation of ropeways from Dharmkot to Triund, Janjehli to Shikari Mata and other tourist places.
- Develop training module for people connected with tourism activities.
- New “**Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna**” to encourage local entrepreneurship with an outlay of ₹ 80 crore launched.
- New ‘**Mukhya Mantri Yuva Ajivika Yojna**’ for providing self employment to Himachali youth in age group of 18-35 years in trade and services launched with an outlay of ₹ 75 crore.

- Entrepreneurship development programmes to be organized to stimulate entrepreneurship among youth.
- **“Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushalya Yojna”** will be implemented with an outlay of ₹ 77 crore.
- ₹ 100 crore for Skill Development Allowance.
- ₹ 300 crore as grant and equity to HRTC.
- Installation of electronic display boards at all the bus stands and selected bus stops to display bus timings.
- Additional outlay of ₹ 20 crore for construction of Bus Stands and toilets blocks.
- Mechanism of third party inspection and Independent Quality Check Squad under Chief Minister Office for ensuring quality of Government construction.
- Target of tarring of 2,500 Kilometers of road length. Additional ₹100 crore in 2018-19 for maintenance of roads.
- A new **“Himachal Road Improvement Scheme”** started with an outlay of 50 crore for cross drainage.
- Invitation of international bidding for keeping the Sachh Pass, Jalori Pass, Khada Pathar and Rohtang Pass open during winters.
- ₹ 50 crore for improving the road alignment, sign boards, parapets etc. at the identified black spots.
- ₹ 50 crore for Mukhya Mantri sadak yojna.
- **“The Himachal Pradesh Settlement of Pending Assessment Cases Bill”**, 2018 to be laid for the benefit of the dealers.

- Setting up of a robust and transparent transfer and posting mechanism for the teachers.
- New “मुख्यमन्त्री आदर्श विद्या केन्द्र” Scheme will be launched with an allocation of ₹ 25 crore for under which 10 residential schools will be constructed.
- School bags to be provided to the students of 1st, 3rd, 6th and 9th class under ‘Atal Vardi Yojna’.
- Atal Tinkering Labs will be set up in selected schools.
- A new programme “**Akhand Shiksha Jyoti, Mere School se Nikle Moti**” to be launched.
- New “मेधा प्रोत्साहन योजना” to be launched for preparing students for competitive exams.
- Grant-in-aid of ₹ 110 crore to Himachal Pradesh University.
- Vanishing Manuscripts and rare books to be digitized.
- New Scheme “आज पुरानी राहों से” launched.
- ₹ 25 crore for construction of indoor auditorium.
- Daily allowance to Poets/Writers/Litterateur increased by 50 percent.
- New scheme “देव भूमि दर्शन” to provide transport facility for senior citizens for pilgrimage within the State.
- ₹ 15 crore for construction of multipurpose indoor complexes.
- ₹ 6.80 crore under “मुख्यमन्त्री खेल विकास योजना”
- Medical emergency assistance increased from existing ₹ 50 thousand to ₹ 2.5 lakh under the “**Himachal Pradesh Patrakar Kalyan Yojna**”. Withdrawal of present annual income limit announced.

- New “स्वास्थ्य में सहभागिता योजना” to encourage establishment of private allopathic hospital in rural areas launched.
- New “मुख्यमंत्री निरोग योजना” launched for basic health checkup.
- Increase in number of drugs under the free drug policy in all health institutions.
- 100 percent immunization target for prevention of Measles and Rubella.
- Baby kit worth ₹ 1,500 will be provided to all new born under new “**Mukhya Mantri Aashirwad Scheme**”.
- Kidney transplant facility will be created in the IGMC.
- New “मुख्यमंत्री चिकित्सा सहायता कोष” for assistance to needy poor people of the State having serious ailments constituted.
- Assistance under “Mother Teresa Matri Ashray Sambal Yojna” raised to ₹ 5,000 per annum.
- Assistance to BPL families under “**Beti Hai Anmol Yojna**” enhanced to ₹ 12,000.
- New comprehensive “सशक्त महिला योजना” announced.
- Critical care package under “Swasthya Bima Yojna” enhanced from ₹ 1,75,000 to ₹ 2,50,000 for families having one or two girl child. Additional assistance of ₹ 75,000 will be payable to the girls for their medical care.
- Social Security pension enhanced to ₹ 750 per month. Pension to persons having 70 percent and above disabilities and persons aged 70 years and above

enhanced to ₹ 1,300 per month. Budget provision of ₹ 600 crore for Social Security Pension Schemes.

- Establishment of three new women police stations in Solan, Hamirpur and Chamba Districts proposed.
- An additional Interim Relief of 4 percent on basic pay/basic pension to regular State Government Employees/Pensioners from 1st July, 2017.
- Contact employees to get emoluments equal to basic pay plus double of the grade pay.
- Daily wages increased to ₹ 225 per day.
- Honorarium of part time Water Carriers, Mid-day-Meal Workers, SMC Teachers, ASHA Workers, Anganwari Workers/Helpers and Water Guards enhanced.
- ₹ 65 crore for construction of new residences and ₹ 25 crore for repair of Government residences.
- All functional posts in the Departments will be filled up.
- Budget provision of ₹ 41,440 crore for 2018-19.

160. Speaker Sir, from the day that our BJP Government has assumed office we have demonstrated our commitment to provide a transparent and efficient Government. We have set an ambitious agenda for ourselves and surely not an easy one. This is a small beginning on the road of long journey and as famous Urdu Poet Nida Fazli quoted;

Conclusion.

“सफर में धूप तो होगी चल सको तो चलो ।
सभी हैं भीड़ में तुम भी निकल सको तो चलो ।।

This budget embraces all sections of society and makes them equal stakeholders in the progress of the State. It is a blue print of reforms and transformation. It is an embodiment of the hopes of the youth because many schemes for generation of employment. This budget provides a strategy for improve the economy of farmers and horticulturists. This budget demonstrates strengthening of measures to increase investments in the State.

This budget not only shows the direction towards which our developmental agenda would move, but is also reflection of the results of our endeavors. All around development of all sections of the society, their participation in the process of overall development. This document is also a reflection of the aspirations of people of Himachal Pradesh.

With the following lines from a poem by respected Atalji. I commend this Budget to this August House;

“हम पड़ाव को समझें मंजिल,
लक्ष्य हुआ आँखों से ओझल,
वर्तमान के मोह जाल में,
आने वाला कल न भुलाएं,
आओ फिर से दीया जलाएं,
आओ फिर से दीया जलाएं।।

“Jai Hind

Jai Himachal”.