

Honourable Speaker Sir,

With your permission, I present the budget estimates for the year 2023-24.

1. First of all, I thank the people of Himachal Pradesh from the depths of my heart for returning Congress Party with a decisive victory in the recently held Vidhan Sabha elections. This is my first budget as the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Himachal Pradesh and my colleagues from Congress Party for electing me to this post. I also thank the people of Nadaun Constituency.

2. The Congress Government inherited a precarious fiscal situation in the State when it assumed power on 11th December, 2022. I request for cooperation from all the Honourable Members of the House for making efforts to deal with the situation and to improve fiscal health of the State. I also request the Honourable Members of Parliament from the State to support in getting maximum assistance from Central Government. I request the officers and employees of the State to support in the economic development of the State. Our Government is of the firm belief that this budget will prove to be an important milestone in giving a new direction to the development process in the State rather than being a mere annual ritual.

3. Speaker Sir, the Congress Government has inherited huge debt and a liability of about Rs.10,000 crore on account of arrears of salaries of employees and pensioners and Dearness Allowance from the previous Government. Policies of the previous Government have resulted in a debt of Rs.92,833 on every person of Himachal Pradesh. The State's budgetary resources have been adversely affected due to discontinuation of GST compensation after June, 2022. This will adversely affect the financial position of the State in coming years. Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) from the Central Government will reduce from Rs.9,377 crore in 2022-23 to Rs.3,257 crore in 2025-26. Notwithstanding these challenges, the pace of development of the State will not be allowed to be adversely affected.

4. I wish to assure the people of Himachal Pradesh that our Government will work with full dedication to implement development policies as enunciated in the "**Congress Pratigya Patra**". This will be considered as a policy document for development of the State. The people of the State have expressed full confidence in the election manifesto of the Congress Party and we are determined to honour all the guarantees.

5. We will honour the promises made to meet aspirations of people of the State. The results of the Assembly elections are an indication of the beginning of a new era in state and national politics. People of Himachal have voted for secular, inclusive and democratic policies of the Congress Party. We are committed to give pace to the growth of the State and

ensure that it benefits all sections and regions of the State.

6. Himachal Pradesh came into existence in 1948 and it became a full-fledged State in 1971. People of the State will always remember the contribution made by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India in granting full Statehood to Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar, the first Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, put the State on the path of inclusive development. Keeping in view the present scenario and future challenges, we need to follow a new strategy. Our Government has not come to office just for assuming power but has a strong belief in bringing systemic changes for the welfare of masses.

7. Immediately after Swearing-in-Ceremony at the historic Ridge Maidan of Shimla, breaking the established tradition of going to the office in Secretariat, I went to the Balika Ashram in Tutikandi to interact with the inmates. My interaction with inmates of the Ashram has been a great learning for me. I got first hand feel of the problems of these children. I have started "**Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Ashraya Yojana**" for their welfare.

8. Our Government has announced to restore the "**Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**" immediately after it assumed office. 1.36 lakh employees will be benefitted with this decision. The Cabinet has already passed a resolution to impress upon the Government of India to return the NPS amount of about Rs.8,000 crore deposited with it. I request Hon'ble Opposition

Members to help our Government in getting back this amount from Central Government.

9. We need to change the development paradigm in the State given the present situation and the forthcoming challenges before us. Himachal has performed better than many other States on different development indicators relating to education, health, electricity supply, water supply and several other areas and has emerged as a model State for inclusive and equitable development. Today, the challenge before us is not only to build good infrastructure in various sectors, but also to provide quality services. Schools without teachers, hospitals without doctors and offices without adequate staff cannot be the ideal for development of Himachal Pradesh.

10. We need to define targets to ensure uninterrupted delivery of quality public services like electricity, water and roads in a specific time frame instead of merely opening new institutions. We appreciate the fact that Good Government with Good Governance is an imperative for welfare of people of the State.

11. Information and communication technology have revolutionized the modern times. Tools like Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning etc. can be of great use in increasing effectiveness of public services and reducing their cost. Changes are needed in all sectors in view of emerging new challenges. We need to focus on appropriate development processes by optimizing allocation of scarce resources and reducing

wasteful expenditure. We cannot visualize a prosperous future for the State without systemic changes.

12. The world is moving to an era of Green Technology. New and alternate sources of energy are being explored and tested globally. Innovations are adding new knowledge in all sectors and challenging conventional methods and thinking.

13. Speaker Sir, my budget is based on these ideas and is aimed at providing direction to all round and inclusive development of Himachal Pradesh with new and innovative ideas and practices.

14. Speaker Sir, Based on the estimation done by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Economic Survey of India - 2022-23 has indicated the national growth rate as 6.8 per cent for 2022 and 6.1 per cent for 2023, which are lower than the previously estimated growth rates. The slow down at the national level will also adversely affect growth rate of economy of Himachal Pradesh. Rising prices of food items and unemployment conditions prevailing at national level are affecting the State also.

National
Economy

15. Speaker Sir, the growth rate of economy of the State is estimated at 6.4 percent during 2022-23. Per capita income in Himachal Pradesh has been estimated to be Rs.2,22,227 in 2022-23 with a growth rate of 10.4 percent over previous year. State's GDP is estimated to be Rs.1,95,404 crore for 2022-23.

State Economy

16. I propose an outlay of Rs.9,524 crore for the State Development Budget for 2023-24. Rs.2,399 crore

Development
Budget

is proposed for 'Scheduled Caste Development Program', Rs.857 crore for 'Tribal Development Program' and Rs.104 crore for 'Backward Area Development Program'. Besides an outlay of Rs.3,397 crore is proposed for Central Schemes Budget.

Energy/Multi-
purpose projects

17. Speaker Sir, our Government will take effective steps to develop Himachal Pradesh as a '**Green Energy State**' by 31st March, 2026. Measures will be taken for exploitation of solar energy, in addition to hydropower to meet this objective. A target of starting new solar energy projects with capacity of 500 MW has been set in 2023-24. 2 Panchayats in each district of the State will be developed as Green Panchayats on a pilot basis. Solar power projects with capacity ranging from 500 KW to 1 MW capacity will be set up in these Panchayats. A solar power based "**Battery Energy Storage System Project**" will be set up in Pangi to strengthen its power supply system.

18. I announce that youth of the State will be given 40 percent subsidy to set up solar power projects for capacity ranging from 250 KW to 2 MW on their own/leased land. Electricity generated from these projects will be purchased by State Electricity Board.

19. With an objective to make Himachal a Green State, our Government has also decided that Himachal Pradesh will be developed as a 'Model State for Electric Vehicles'. Use of electric vehicles will be encouraged in a phased manner to reduce carbon emissions, with the collaboration of private and public sectors. In the first

phase, following National and State Highways will be developed as Green Corridor for electric vehicles:—

- Parwanoo – Nalagarh – Una – Hamirpur–
Dehra – Amb – Mubarakpur – Sansarpur
Terrace – Nurpur.
- Paonta – Nahan – Solan – Shimla.
- Parwanoo – Solan – Shimla – Rampur – Peo –
Pooh – Tabo – Kaza – Losar.
- Shimla–Bilaspur–Hamirpur – Kangra – Nurpur
– Banikhet – Chamba.
- Mandi – Jogindernagar – Palampur –
Dharamshala – Kangra – Pathankot.
- Kiratpur – Bilaspur –Mandi – Kullu – Manali –
Keylong – Zingzingbar.

20. Our Government will develop public transport system with the help of electric vehicles in the coming years. This will substantially reduce dependence on fossil fuels. I announce the following to encourage participation of the youth of Himachal in e-vehicle sector:—

- ✓ The private bus operators will be given subsidy of 50 percent with the maximum limit of Rs.50 lakh for purchase of e-buses.
- ✓ The private truck operators will be given subsidy of 50 percent with the maximum limit of Rs.50 lakh for purchase of e-trucks.

- ✓ The private operators will be given subsidy of 50 percent for establishing charging stations. A detailed work plan will be prepared for it in consultation with the State Electricity Board.

21. Speaker Sir, our Government's efforts will be to reduce air, sound and all other types of pollution in order to develop Himachal Pradesh as 'Green State'. For this, emphasis will be on replacing maximum diesel buses of the Himachal Road Transport Corporation with e-buses in the coming years. Himachal Road Transport Corporation is plying 75 e-buses and 50 e-taxis currently in the State. I announce to replace 1,500 diesel buses of HRTC with electric buses in a phased manner. Expenditure of Rs.1,000 crore is proposed for the purpose. In the first phase, a new e-bus Depot will be set up in Nadaun and Shimla (local) Depot will be converted into e-bus Depot in a phased manner.

22. Green Hydrogen is the future of clean energy. It is developed through electrolysis of water and it causes negligible damage to environment and causes almost no pollution. Our Government will promote Green Hydrogen in the State to make Himachal Pradesh a leading Green Hydrogen based economy in the country. Green Hydrogen policy will be brought out to achieve this objective.

23. Stimulus will be given to exploit **Hydro Power**, an important form of **Green Energy**. Hydropower projects with capacity of 1,000 MW will be completed in 2023-24. The work on Parvati-II, Tidong-I, Shelly-Masrang and Lambadag will be completed. The work on

the nationally important Renukaji Dam Project, Chanju-III, Deothal Chanju, Suni Dam and Dugar projects will be started during this year. Apart from this, execution of Saikothi-I, Devikothi, Saikothi-III and Hel projects will be started.

24. The State Government will bring an open and attractive policy to attract private sector investment in hydropower exploitation.

25. "Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme" costing Rs.2,000 crore will be launched with the help of the World Bank. Under this, there is a provision to construct solar power projects with a capacity of 200 MW and to construct 11 sub-stations and 2 distribution lines serving 13 towns of the State. The discussions for signing the project and loan agreements with the World Bank are in the final stages and MoU will be signed soon.

26. The construction of 6 EHV Sub-Stations at Kala Amb, Barshaini, Kangu, Palchaan, Dharampur and Hilling, five transmission lines and a **'Joint Control Centre'** will be completed by the HPTCL at a cost of Rs.464 crore.

27. A **'Centralized Cell'** will be set up for efficient management of sale and purchase of power to increase revenues.

28. Speaker Sir, our Government's major priority is to develop Himachal Pradesh as a 'Tourism State' which will have immense potential for increasing income of local youth by providing them employment.

Tourism

Construction of Mandi Airport and expansion of Kangra Airport are pending for a long time due to delay in land acquisition. The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended Rs.1,000 crore for Mandi Airport and Rs.400 crore for Kangra Airport. Speaker Sir, I would like to request the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties in this House and all the Honourable Members of Parliament from the State to join hands to impress upon the Government of India for an early release of recommended amount. The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey of both the Airports will be completed soon and the acquisition process will be started immediately thereafter. The execution of the master plan prepared by the Airport Authority of India for expansion of Kangra Airport will be given desired pace. The process of land acquisition to increase the length of runway of the Kangra Airport from existing 1,372 meters to 3,010 meters will be completed by the middle of next financial year. The work on expansion of the Airport will be started immediately after land acquisition. It is proposed to spend Rs.2,000 crore in 2023-24 for the purpose.

29. The Government is developing Heliports at Rampur, Baddi, Kanganidhar (Mandi) and SASE (Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment), Manali. Heli-Taxi services will be operationalized soon from Sanjauli and Baddi Heliports. Heliports will be constructed/developed in Hamirpur, Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Una district to ensure that they remain connected with air transport throughout the year. Rs.30 crore will be spent on construction and development of these Heliports during 2023-24.

30. Kangra district will be developed as **“Tourism Capital”** of Himachal Pradesh with the objective of decongesting other popular tourist destinations. A comprehensive Action Plan will be prepared for this. Following projects are proposed to develop Kangra as a favoured tourist destination and to attract tourists:-

- ✓ A **“Golf course”** meeting international standards will be developed.
- ✓ A 24X7 **“Tourist Village”** will be established in the district to provide additional employment opportunities to local youth by showcasing and promoting local art, culture, handicrafts, music etc.
- ✓ Old Age Homes will be developed for senior citizens.
- ✓ Development of Ice skating and roller skating rinks.
- ✓ Promotion of water sports, shikara, cruise, yacht facilities in Pong Dam.

Necessary land will be made available to facilitate above initiatives.

31. I announce to set up a large zoo in Bankhandi in Kangra district at a total cost of Rs.300 crore which will boost tourism. This zoo will be constructed in three phases, in an area of 180 hectare. I propose Rs.60 crore in 2023-24 for the first phase of construction of this zoo. Speaker Sir, I wish to apprise this August House through you that land has been selected for establishment of this zoo and detailed estimate will be finalized soon.

32. A comprehensive tourism development scheme has been prepared at a cost of Rs.1,311 crore with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.390 crore will be spent in Kangra, Rs.257 crore in Hamirpur, Rs.229 crore in Kullu, Rs.123 crore in Shimla and Rs.138 crore in Mandi and Rs.174 crore will be spent in other districts. The facilities like electric buses, water sports, theme parks, wayside amenities, high end food courts, beautification of heritage sites, eco tourism etc. will be provided at the selected places in these districts. These also include development of Shiv Dham in Mandi, ice skating and roller skating rinks in Manali, upgradation of Ice skating rink, Shimla to ensure its usage for both winter and summer games etc.

33. Speaker Sir, our Government's priority would be to develop tourism sector by providing employment to the local youth in this sector. For this, a **"Centre of Excellence"** in tourism and hospitality sectors is being set up at Wagnaghat at estimated cost of Rs.68 crore under the 'Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Programme'. Its construction will be completed by the end of 2023. In the next financial year, skilling courses having maximum demand in tourism and hospitality sectors will be started.

Health & Family
Welfare and
Medical
Education

34. Speaker Sir, our Government aims to equip medical colleges with world class medical technology. Departments of Urology, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Gastro Surgery in medical colleges located in IGMCH (Shimla), Chamera (Shimla), Tanda-Kangra, Nahan, Chamba and Nerchowk,

Hamirpur will be equipped with Robotic Surgery facilities in a phased manner. An amount of nearly Rs.100 crore will be spent on it during 2023-24.

35. In the coming financial year, construction work in Government Medical colleges, Hamirpur, Nahan and Chamba will be completed and these colleges will be dedicated to the public. People will get quality health services through these medical colleges. About Rs.100 crore will be spent for completion of these colleges.

36. Speaker Sir, it has been often seen that more than one patient is found on a bed in Casualty Department of medical colleges, where patients are likely to catch other infections. As a solution to deal with this situation, Casualty Department of these medical colleges will be upgraded to Emergency Medicine Department. Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) of 50 bed capacity will be constructed in these institutions at a cost of Rs.150 crore under this initiative. For providing 24X7 emergency services, availability of specialists, medical officers, staff nurses and other para medical staff will be ensured in these institutions. A mechanism for establishing coordination with nearby health institutions will be put in place to cope with situation arising from high number of patients.

37. One health institution in each Legislative Assembly Constituency will be developed as "**Adarsh Swasthaya Sansthan**". 134 types of laboratory test facilities, specialists alongwith medical staff and latest State of the Art MRI, CT Scan, Ultrasound and digital X-ray facilities will be provided in these institutions.

Dependence of local residents on the district hospitals and medical colleges will be reduced with provision of these facilities.

38. I announce to establish a **‘Centre of Excellence’** for Cancer Care in Dr. Radhakrishanan Government Medical College, Hamirpur. I also announce to start Nuclear Medicine Department in this college. Rs.50 crore is proposed to be spent for it during 2023-24.

39. I announce to start nursing colleges in medical colleges situated at Nahan, Chamba and Hamirpur.

40. I also announce to install PET Scan in all the medical colleges of the State. An amount of Rs.50 crore is proposed to be spent for this.

41. I announce to establish **‘Himachal Pradesh Medical Services Corporation’** for procurement of quality medicines, machinery and equipment with latest technology at competitive prices and to ensure their timely supply to health institutions located in the State.

42. Speaker Sir, Type-I diabetes is prevalent among pregnant women and children and they have to get insulin injection every day. This makes them vulnerable to the risk of serious infections of kidneys and other organs. I announce that insulin pumps will be provided to these pregnant women and children.

Rs.3,139 crore are proposed for Health sector.

Quality
Education

43. Speaker Sir, several surveys brought out recently indicate deterioration of students' learning, reading and writing abilities especially, after COVID pandemic. Our Government is committed to strengthen the education

system and a comprehensive work plan will be prepared to improve the situation.

44. Focus will be on both quality and quantitative improvement of education system while implementing the National Education Policy 2020 in the State, to improve learning outcomes of children. The process for filling up vacant posts of teachers in educational institutions will be expedited.

45. Speaker Sir, our Government believes in providing better facilities in terms of adequate teachers, libraries, lab facilities, good buildings and sports grounds in functional schools instead of only opening new schools or upgrading existing schools. In 2021-22, only one teacher was available in 3,148 schools of the State, which were 30 percent of the total schools. It was found that very few students were enrolled in many recently opened institutions and it was not possible to provide quality education to them. Considerable changes are needed to provide best education to children of the State.

46. Moving forward in the direction of fulfilling guarantees of the Congress Party, I announce to open one **“Rajiv Gandhi Government Model Day-Boarding School”** in every Legislative Assembly Constituency of Himachal Pradesh. These schools will have classes starting from pre-primary to 12th standard with indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Provision of swimming pool will also be made where water is available in sufficient quantity. Rs.300 crore will be incurred on the scheme in a phased manner.

47. To enable youth of the State to prepare for various competitive exams, I announce to construct a library with the access to National Digital Library and other essential books in those Blocks of the State, where libraries/reading rooms are not available.

48. With the objective of providing employment to youth of Himachal Pradesh, Employment Melas and special placement drive will be organized twice in a year in colleges.

49. Our Government will expand the vocational education in schools. Various syllabi and curricula of education institutions will be reviewed and the latest market demand based vocational courses will be introduced.

50. The following is proposed for using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and improving quality of education in the schools:-

- Library room will be established in each Senior Secondary School.
- 10,000 meritorious students will be given tablets.
- 762 Schools will be provided with the necessary hardware and software for starting smart class rooms under "**ICT Scheme**".
- 17,510 primary regular teachers will be provided tablets.
- 40,000 desks will be provided during this year to Government schools.

51. Speaker Sir, to encourage students to participate in sports, I announce to increase the diet money of players living in sports hostels from Rs.120 per day to Rs.240 per day.

Rs.8,828 crore are proposed for Education sector.

52. Speaker Sir, our Government's first priority will be to provide employment to youth of the State. It is necessary to provide necessary skills to them in those sectors which have more employment opportunities. Our Government will start the following new Value Added Courses in 2023-24 to improve quality of the Technical Education and to make it employment oriented:—

Technical
Education and
Skill
Development

- Robotics, Block-Chain Technology, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning courses in various Government institutions.
- B-Tech Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science) in Hydro Engineering College, Bilaspur.
- Electric Vehicles Mechanic, Maintenance Mechanic, Solar Technician, Drone Technician, Mechatronics and Internet of Things (IoT) Technician courses in 13 ITIs namely; Ghumarwin, Garnota, Nadaun, Sunni, Shahpur, Palampur, Shamshi, Nahan, Jubbal, Una, Pandoga, Sundernagar (persons with disabilities) and Nalagarh.

53. Drone Service Technician Course will be started through Kaushal Vikas Nigam in a phased manner in 11 Government Industrial Training Institutes Chamba, Sialana, Shimla, Shamshi, Mandi (Women), Nahan (Women), Solan, Nalagarh, Rajgarh, Rail and Ghumarwin.

54. Infrastructure and other facilities will be improved in 12 ITIs namely Arki, Bagsiad, Barthin, Bhoranj, Bilaspur (Women), Deegal, Mandi (Women), Neharanpukhar, Nurpur, Sialana, Shimla and Una under the World Bank funded Project STRIVE. 'On-grid Solar Power Plants' will also be set up in 5 Industrial Training Institutes namely Paplog, Sunni, Dharamshala, Baroh and Sujampur under the project. Rs.20 crore will be spent on these works.

55. “Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Project” will be implemented in 4 engineering colleges and 8 polytechnics in the next five years. The selected engineering colleges and polytechnics will be eligible to receive Rs.10 crore and Rs.5 crore, respectively, in next 5 years.

56. Kaushal Vikas Nigam will train 500 youth in drone sector, 500 youth in Electric Vehicles, and 500 youth in solar energy sector. Besides, 5,000 graduate students will be given training in EEE (English, Employment and Entrepreneurship) so that the youth of our State are proficient in English language and are able to get attractive employment on the basis of improved employability skills.

57. I also announce that Labour & Employment and Technical Education Departments, in collaboration with HPKVN, will organize job fairs on monthly basis for various trained/certified candidates across the State, as per market requirement.

Rs.361 crore are proposed for Technical Education.

58. Speaker Sir, under one of the guarantees of our Government, women have been promised Rs.1,500 per month. We will fulfil this guarantee in a phased manner. In the first phase, I announce to pay monthly pension of Rs.1,500 per month to 2.31 lakh women who are presently getting pension at the rates of Rs.1,000 and Rs.1,150 per month. Our Government will spend an amount of Rs.416 crore per year for this.

Social Security
Pension

59. I hereby announce to remove the conditions of income limit and Gram Sabha recommendation to enable all widows and Divyangjans (disability 40-69 percent) to get pension. This will benefit both these sections and 9,000 new beneficiaries will be benefited under the Divyangjan **"Raahat Bhatta Yojana."** Government will spend an additional Rs.12 crore on this. I also announce to cover 40,000 new eligible persons under social security pension in the coming year.

60. Speaker Sir, our Government has started a new scheme **"Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana"** for children in need of care (orphans, semi-orphans and specially abled). All children/persons upto the age of 27 years covered under the scheme will be known as 'Children of State' and State Government will look after

Sukhashray
Yojana/Women
and Child
Development
and Welfare of
Weaker
Sections

them by following the principle of **‘Sarkaar hee Mata Sarkaar hee Pita’**.

- A **‘Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Ashray Kosh’** with the provision of Rs.101 crore has been established for this scheme.
- Shelter Homes for children, destitute women and elderly persons will be upgraded or constructed with all modern facilities.
- New integrated buildings **‘Adarsh Gram Sukh-Ashray Parisar’** with the capacity of about 400 inmates will be constructed in Sundernagar and Jwalamukhi to provide shelter/residential facilities to senior citizens, children, specially abled children and destitute women.
- Provision of better furniture, clothes, bedding, food, additional house mothers, quality education, career counselling etc. will be made for qualitative improvement of orphanages.
- Additionally, the children covered under this scheme will be taken out for educational tour outside the State once in a year. They will also be provided the facilities of air travel and stay in three star hotels.
- The expenditure on account of education, hostel, professional training and skill upgradation for the beneficiaries between the age of 18-27 years covered under the scheme will be borne by the State Government.

I appeal to all the people of the State to contribute liberally to 'Sukh-Aashray Kosh' for welfare of the 'Children of State'.

61. I announce to start a new scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Vidhwa Evam Ekal Nari Awas Yojana**" with the financial assistance of Rs.1.5 lakh for construction of houses for eligible widows and single women. 7,000 women will be given assistance for constructing houses under the scheme in 2023-24. Electricity, water and other facilities will be provided in the houses built under this scheme.

62. I announce a subsidy of Rs.25,000 each to 20,000 meritorious girl students above the age of 18 years studying in Government institutions to purchase '**Electric Scooty**'. This will not only encourage girl students to pursue higher education but will also help to develop Himachal Pradesh as a '**Green State**'.

63. Our Government will provide financial assistance to such poor children of the State, who are unable to pursue higher and professional studies due to paucity of resources. I announce to start "**Mukhya Mantri Vidyarthi Protsahan Yojana**" with the proposed expenditure of Rs.200 crore. Under the scheme, eligible poor children will be given education loan through financial institutions/banks at the interest rate of 1 percent to pursue engineering, medical, management, PhD, courses from ITIs/Polytechnics, B.Pharmacy, nursing, General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) etc. Our Government will ensure that no poor child of the State

is deprived of higher/professional education for want of financial resources.

64. I announce the launch of "**Mukhya Mantri Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyaan**". A comprehensive action plan has been prepared for this campaign. People of the State, especially the children will be made aware of various provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO).

65. I announce the launch of "**Nasha Evam Maadak Padarth Mukh Himachal Abhiyaan**" to mitigate ill effects of drug and substance abuse and to create awareness among the youth of the State.

Rs.2,233 crore are proposed for Social Security and Welfare of Women, Child and other weaker sections.

Agriculture/
value addition/
Animal
Husbandry and
Cow Protection

66. Speaker Sir, Agriculture and allied sectors play an important role in the economy of Himachal Pradesh and 70 percent workers of the State depend on these sectors for their livelihood. Agriculture and animal husbandry are becoming difficult and there is a need to change this situation. Over the years, cash crops, vegetable production and off-season crops have been encouraged through various small schemes, but till now farmers have not been able to get full benefits. To ensure integrated development of agriculture in the State, I announce to start area-based Integrated and Comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme "**Him Unnati**". This scheme will be run following cluster approach, in which clusters will be identified in the entire State in the first phase.

67. Under the new scheme, at least 40 bighas of land will be included in each cluster depending on the local climate, geographical conditions, soil type etc. A survey-based action plan will be prepared to increase income of the beneficiary families. Existing schemes of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Department will be converged and linked to this action plan. Separate clusters of milk production, pulses, millets, vegetables, fruits, flowers, cash crops and natural farming will be formed according to area-specific potential. All sub-projects of JICA Phase II will also be converged with **“Him Unnati”**. Rs.150 crore will be made available for the first phase of **“Him Unnati”** in 2023-24.

68. Speaker Sir, the farmers shall be now eligible for subsidy for using wire mesh for fencing fields under **‘Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojana.’**

69. Speaker Sir, tractors will be provided to farmers at a subsidy of 50 percent under **‘Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization’**.

70. Speaker Sir, for encouraging start-ups in agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and fisheries, I announce to extend credit to farmers, FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) and FIGs (Farmer Interest Groups) at an interest of 2 percent through financial institutions/banks.

71. I announce launch of **"Him-Ganga"** scheme to develop milk-based economy in the State. Under this scheme, cattle rearers will be provided true cost based milk price and qualitative improvement will be brought in the system of milk procurement, processing and

marketing. State Government will ensure that milk producers are protected from regional and seasonal price fluctuations of milk and milk products, especially the poorer sections so that they get fair prices for milk. I propose to spend Rs.500 crore for "**Him Ganga**" yojana. In the first phase, this scheme will be started on pilot basis by linking farmers/animal husbandry of some areas of the State with this scheme. On the basis of results, it will be replicated in other areas.

72. To increase income of the milk farmers, Milk Producers Cooperative Societies will be formed as per need. Effective marketing of milk and its products will be ensured through these cooperative societies.

73. To make "**Him-Ganga**" yojana a success, milk processing plants will be set up and the existing plants will be upgraded. For this, all necessary infrastructure and supply chains will be established in a phased manner.

74. Improved facilities will be provided in identified veterinary hospitals. Veterinary service will be started through 44 mobile vans in 2023-24.

Food Security

75. Our Government will spend Rs.265 crore in the coming year on the subsidy being given on pulses and edible oil which was started by the Congress Government in 2007.

76. Civil Supplies Corporation will procure wheat in the upcoming season. Wheat procurement target has been kept at 30,000 MT.

77. Speaker Sir, State Government is aware and committed to increase income of the horticulturists in the State. A new Horticulture Policy will be brought.

78. The Government will develop 6,000 hectare area for horticulture in 28 Development Blocks of 7 districts (Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Solan, and Una) under **“HPSHIVA Project”** in the next five years with an outlay of Rs.1,292 crore. This will be done in two phases. The Project will benefit more than 15,000 horticulturist families. Under the project, the production of orange, guava, pomegranate, litchi, plum, pecan nut, persimmon, mango, and other fruits will be promoted under the **'One Crop One Cluster'** approach on private lands of farmers. The target is to plant one crore saplings under the project. Post harvest losses will be reduced by developing Value Chain Infrastructure.

79. An online system will be established to facilitate procurement of horticulture produce at minimum support price by HPMC. This online facility will also be available for booking the CA stores of HPMC. Horticulture farmers will be able to sell their produce from their homes. Under this facility, farmers will also be able to book farm equipment and materials sold by HPMC.

80. To increase production of fruits in the State, fruit clusters/hubs will be developed, in which new crops like dragon fruit, blueberry, avocado etc. will be introduced using techniques of High Density Plantation and Micro Irrigation System.

81. Horticulture Department will suitably modify the existing schemes and make them more effective through appropriate restructuring.

82. Grading/Packing Houses, CA and Cold Stores will be set up in association with FPOs in Bhavanagar (Kinnaur), Sandasu (Chirgaon), Anu (Jubbal), Chopal (Shimla), Jabli (Solan), Sundernagar (Mandi), Duttnagar (Rampur Bushehar) and Kharapathar (Shimla).

83. 60 FPOs will be established to improve the economic condition of horticulture farmers.

Fisheries

84. Speaker Sir, fish farming has immense potential in Himachal Pradesh which can boost local economy and improve livelihoods. There is a need to boost fish farming and provide incentives to the fishermen. A detailed action plan would be drawn up to increase fishermen's income by promoting Backyard Fish Farming, Cage Culture, Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and other technology based interventions.

85. 20 hectare new fish ponds will be constructed in the private sector. I announce to give a subsidy of 80 percent for construction of fish ponds to increase income of the farmers.

86. 120 new Trout Units will be constructed to increase the capacity of fisheries sector.

87. 5 small biofloc fishery units, 2 trout hatcheries, 3 fish feed mills and 1 ice plant will also be set up.

88. To facilitate the training of farmers and other persons associated with fish farming in the State, a Carp

Farm will be set up at Gagret (Una) at a cost of Rs.5 crore to facilitate trainings. 600 fishermen will be trained each year at this centre.

89. Fishermen dependent on riverine fish living in the plain areas will be provided 1,000 Cast Nets at subsidy.

90. About 12,000 families are dependent on catching and rearing fish from various reservoirs, rivers and ponds etc. in the State. There are many possibilities of generating self-employment for the youth in this sector. Self-employment opportunities will be provided to 500 youths in the year 2023-24.

91. Speaker Sir, our Government will provide funds for the construction of Panchayat Ghars in the newly notified Panchayats in a phased manner. Rs.10 crore are proposed for this during 2023-24.

Panchayati Raj
and Rural
Development

92. Our Government is committed to provide Panchayat Secretary in each Gram Panchayat for their smooth functioning. In the coming year, 210 posts of Panchayat Secretaries and 164 posts of Technical Assistants will be filled up on fixed emoluments.

93. Speaker Sir, 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)' has been a successful and popular scheme launched by the Congress Government at the Centre to provide assured employment in rural areas. In 2014, the Bhartiya Janata Party Government at the Centre had criticized this scheme. During COVID pandemic, employment was made widely available in rural areas by different State Governments through this scheme. I announce to

increase the daily wages of MGNREGA workers to Rs.240 from Rs.212. Similarly, the wages of MGNREGS workers in Tribal areas will be increased from Rs.266 to Rs.294. This would benefit over 9 lakh MGNREGS workers of which 65 percent are women. The additional burden of about Rs.100 crore on this account will be borne by the State Government.

94. Different works are implemented under 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)'. To ensure quality of works, services of an assistant will be taken. 25,000 to 30,000 people will benefit from this.

95. Convergence would be ensured among different schemes of all the departments so that maximum benefits of MGNREGS and other schemes reach people.

96. 132 Custom Hiring Centres will be set up in 26 Development Blocks. These centres will be operated by Self-Help Groups which will provide farming equipments on rent.

97. Fifty 'Him-Ira' model shops will be established in the State. These shops will provide a platform for marketing and sale of the products of the Self-Help Groups. Livelihood Centre will be made available for the Self-Help Groups.

98. I announce to start **"Mukhya Mantri Laghu Dukandar Kalyan Yojana"** for small shopkeepers/traders with the provision of 50 percent subsidy on the interest on the loan upto Rs.50,000. Tailors, barbers,

tea-stall owners, street vendors, Kiryana shops will be covered under the scheme. About 75,000 beneficiaries will be covered under the scheme which will be run with the help of financial institutions.

99. Under “Swachh Bharat Mission”, 4 Gobardhan Plants will be started in the districts on a pilot basis to increase income of Gaushalas. **“Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU)”** will be set up in each block of the State. One Gram Panchayat in each district will be developed as a Model Gram Panchayat using Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and CSR funds. This model will be replicated in other Gram Panchayats.

100. 1,800 Amrit Sarovars are proposed in Himachal Pradesh, of which 760 have been completed. Remaining Amrit Sarovars will be completed by 15th August, 2023.

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

- With an increase of Rs.5,000 per month, Chairman, Zila Parishad will get Rs.20,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.5,000 per month, Vice Chairman, Zila Parishad will get Rs.15,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Member, Zila Parishad will get Rs.6,500 per month honorarium.

- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Chairman, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.9,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Vice Chairman, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Member, Panchayat Samiti will get Rs.6,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat will get Rs.6,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Up-Pradhan, Gram Panchayat will get Rs.4,000 per month honorarium.
- Member, Gram Panchayat will now get Rs.500 per sitting of the Gram Panchayat with an increase of Rs.200 per sitting.

Rs.1,916 crore are proposed for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Urban
Development

102. Speaker Sir, an effective policy will be prepared for laying various utility lines like electric wires, telecom wires, OFC etc. in a single common utility duct. Under this policy, service providers will be permitted by the Government to lay and maintain these cables, obviating the need for frequent road digging. Such utility ducts will be initially constructed in Shimla town on pilot basis, on which Rs.25 crore will be spent in the first phase.

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

- With an increase of Rs.5,000 per month, Mayor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.20,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.5,000 per month, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.15,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Councillor, Municipal Corporation will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, President, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.8,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Vice President, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Councillor, Nagar Parishad will get Rs.3,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Pradhan, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Up-Pradhan, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.5,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Member, Nagar Panchayat will get Rs.3,500 per month honorarium.

104. The problem of sanitary waste has become a serious issue in the towns of the State. To solve the problem, Sanitary Incinerators will be installed with the help of Pollution Control Board.

105. In view of acute parking problems in urban areas, parking capacity of about 1,000 Equivalent Car Space will be created in towns. Besides, large parking lots will be developed in PPP mode.

106. Online property tax payment system will be started in urban bodies.

Housing

107. Speaker Sir, the work of setting up a new town at Jathia Devi, in Shimla will be started by HIMUDA in collaboration with Government of India. A DPR with a cost of Rs.1,373 crore has been sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

Ayush

108. Speaker Sir, 250 'AYUSH Wellness Centres' will be started in 2023-24. Treatment to various ailments will be provided through different packages in these centres. 500 new Herbal Gardens will be set up in collaboration with Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Education and Forest departments.

109. Under 'National AYUSH Mission', farmers will be encouraged to create clusters of medicinal plants.

Jal Shakti

110. Speaker Sir, there are immense possibilities of recharging ground water sources and other water sources through rainwater harvesting in the State. Not only the water flow can be checked by making small check dams on khads, the level of ground water can be increased through percolation of water collected in

naturally existing troughs. Naturally existing huge pits can also be developed as water storage ponds. Our Government will prepare a detailed action plan to increase underground water level through water storage in various pits.

111. To ensure sustainability of the water sources of drinking water and irrigation schemes, our Government will ensure that 10 percent of total project cost is earmarked for source sustainability in the Detailed Project Reports and Estimates.

112. Our Government proposes to take necessary steps to bring the 'Water Regulation and Management Bill' for sustainable use of water resources. To improve services of the drinking water schemes, 24×7 water supply will be ensured in a phased manner. In the first phase, drinking water schemes will be upgraded to 24×7 water supply schemes in some Nagar Panchayats/ Municipal Councils which are in close vicinity of rivers/dams, on pilot basis.

113. Speaker Sir, our Government will give priority to availability of clean and germ free drinking water supply to people of the State. The percolation wells/spring based water supply schemes, with a possibility of water contamination, will be provided with filtration units. Latest technology like UV/ultra filtration/ ozonization etc. will be used in a phased manner. In place of traditional bleaching powder used in water treatment, Gaseous Chlorination System and Sodium Hypo Chlorite System will be used. Rs.25 crore will be spent for this in 2023-24.

114. Sanitation facilities will be provided in five towns namely Manali, Bilaspur, Palampur, Nahan and Karsog. In addition, drinking water supply schemes will be improved in Manali and Palampur. Rs.817 crore will be spent on this project through Development Bank of France- AFD (*Agence Française de Development*).

115. To encourage users for water testing, trained women from Village Water Sanitation Committee (VWSC) will be given incentive of Rs.3,300 per Gram Panchayat for testing at least 50 water samples and uploading the results.

116. Due to disputes in various tender works, there is not only delay in completion of works but there is also additional financial burden incidental on the Government. To avoid such situation, I announce that in coming financial year, Arbitration Clause will be removed from the contract agreements.

117. I announce to fill up 5,000 posts belonging to different categories in Jal Shakti Vibhag to ensure smooth operation and maintenance of various water supply, irrigation and sewerage schemes.

Roads and
Bridges

118. Speaker Sir, our Government has set a target of increasing the length of roads in the State to more than 41,000 Kilometre in 2023-24.

119. In 2023-24, the following works will be completed under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-I & II' :—

- ✓ 150 km of new connectivity.
- ✓ 650 km upgradation work.
- ✓ 200 km cross drainage.

- ✓ Construction of 9 bridges.
- ✓ Connecting 20 habitations with roads.

120. Under PMGSY-III, approval of the Government of India has been obtained for various proposals consisting of 45 roads with a length of 440 Kilometre costing Rs.422 crore after completing GIS survey of all the Blocks. Phase wise DPR for 2,685 Kilometre long roads has been sent for approval to the Government of India. In 2023-24, a target has been set to upgrade 300 Kilometre of roads under PMGSY-III.

121. Speaker Sir, our Government will be sending proposal of following five National Highways for upgrading them from two lane to four lane, which have a total length of 178 Kilometre and an estimated cost of Rs.4,700 crore to the Central Government:-

- ❖ Bidu to Lathyani with the cost of Rs.899 crore.
- ❖ Nalagarh to Swarghat with the cost of Rs.600 crore.
- ❖ Kala Amb to Paonta Sahib to Dehradun with the cost of Rs.1,200 crore.
- ❖ Amb to Una and Punjab border to Nadaun with the cost of Rs.1,500 crore.
- ❖ Una Bypass with the cost of Rs.500 crore.

122. It is proposed to construct 205 Kilometre new roads, 305 Kilometre cross drainages, 425 Kilometre metalled roads and 27 bridges with the help of NABARD (RIDF) in the coming year.

123. State Government has sent 5 roads/bridges projects worth Rs.500 crore to Government of India for funding under Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). My Government will continue to make efforts to get these schemes approved.

124. Speaker Sir, keeping in view, the need to reduce road accidents the following is proposed to improve road safety:—

- Work on 5 double lane 77 Kilometre road length at a cost of Rs.474 crore.
- Development of 43 Kilometre stretch in Kangra district (from Shila Chowk to Palampur two side roads) on a pilot basis as a Safe Corridor under the Safe Corridor Demonstration Project of the World Bank.
- Implementation of Safe Corridor Demonstration Programme for all National Highways and Major District Roads (MDRs) in the State after assessing success of the pilot.

125. Thus, the following targets will be achieved in 2023-24:-

- ✓ Construction of 1,060 Kilometre new roads.
- ✓ Metalling and tarring of 1,505 Kilometre long roads.
- ✓ Works related to cross drainage and drainage on 990 Kilometre roads.
- ✓ Construction of 70 new bridges.
- ✓ Connectivity of 70 villages.

126. With the aim of providing excellent quality roads in the State, I announce to start a new scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Sadak Evam Rakh-Rakhav Yojana.**" An amount of Rs. 200 crore will be spent on this scheme in 2023-24.

127. Speaker Sir, Congress Government has given a guarantee for employment and start-up assistance to the youth of the State. I announce to start "**Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgaar Yojana**", under which, financial assistance will be given for machinery and equipments in Dental Clinics, purchase of e-taxi, installation of solar power projects up to 1 MW and fisheries projects alongwith other enterprises. I also announce to provide subsidy of 50 percent uniformly to all eligible sections on purchase of e-taxi.

Industry/
Private
Investment

128. A need has been felt to review the Industrial Investment Policy, 2019 in view of the fast changing national scenario and international events. Our Government will soon bring a new "**Industrial Investment Policy**". As a follow-up, an **Open Arm Policy** will be followed and the existing single window system will be transformed into a "**Bureau of Investment Promotion**", for which a Bill will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly. This Bureau will facilitate the potential investors to get all clearances under a **single roof**, which will reduce the need to visit Government offices repeatedly. This Bureau will provide a Plug-and-Play interface to the investors. This will help in providing employment opportunities to local youth and also in developing the State as an 'Ideal Investment Friendly State'.

129. Our Government aims at bringing an investment of about Rs.20,000 crore in manufacturing, tourism, energy, construction, housing etc. This will have a potential of providing direct employment to about 40,000 persons and indirect employment to about 50,000 persons.

130. Speaker Sir, while the State Government is trying to increase revenue through scientific mining, it is also serious about curbing illegal mining. To prevent evasion of royalty and for simplification of Form W/X, the same will be linked with M-Parivahan Portal. Related departments like Public Works Department, Jal Shakti Department and Pollution Control Board etc. will also be linked with this portal. This will prevent illegal mining and curb revenue loss. **'Flying Squads'** will be deployed to curb illegal mining in border areas.

131. 99 percent enterprises established in the State come under the Micro, Small and Medium category. Earlier, Government of India used to conduct survey and analysis of these enterprises. Such surveys have not been done for last one decade. Industries Department will conduct a detailed survey of these enterprises, so that the problems of these industries can be identified and their redressal can be done.

132. For promoting 'One District One Product' concept, **"Unity Mall"** will be established in the State. Through this, GI products of the State, handicraft products and handicrafts of other States will be made available under one roof.

Transport

133. For providing employment to the youth, permits will be issued to run e-vehicles on 500 identified bus routes in 2023-24.

134. The Bus Stand Construction and Management Authority will complete construction of 12 bus stands in 2023-24. These include Bus Stands at Theog, Bhanjradu, Barchhwad, Haripur Dehra, Thunag, Janjehli, Baijnath, Kumarsain, Lakkar Bazar Shimla, Darlaghat, Dhalli Shimla and Car Parking Banjar. Bus Stand Authority will undertake construction work at 5 new bus stands at Bangana, Nadaun, Patlikuh, Dalhousie and Rewalser.

135. Bus Port will be built in Hamirpur on which Rs.10 crore will be spent.

136. Tenders will be invited under Public Private Partnership (PPP) for construction of 2 new bus stands Jassoor, Bilaspur and car parking and commercial complex at old bus stand Una.

137. “Vehicle Location App” will be launched by Himachal Road Transport Corporation for information about buses, charging stations and other facilities. ‘Digital fare collection system’ will be implemented in the buses of Transport Corporation.

Forests

138. Speaker Sir, soon after formation of the present Congress Government, I have started monitoring of forest clearance cases. Due to lack of adequate information among the different departments, forest clearances are delayed. The officials will be provided proper training and assistance by the Forest Department. For purpose of expediting development

schemes, District Level Committees have been constituted in each district under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner to expedite clearances. These committees will periodically review all pending projects with concerned officials so that forest clearances are expedited.

139. Plantation will be started on large chunks of barren hills in the State so that green cover can be provided to entire hill through plantation. For this, 250 hectare land will be selected in all the 12 districts under the **“Mukhya Mantri Green Cover Mission”**. Plantation of eco- friendly species will be done along selected slopes.

140. JICA project is being implemented in Shimla, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu, Kangra, Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti. The objective of the project is scientific forest management, increasing biodiversity and to increase income of local communities. Under the project, plantation will be done on 2,000 hectare of land in 2023-24. For completing works under the project, 400 active Self-Help Groups will be taken on board and they will be given financial assistance.

Environment ,
Science and
Technology

141. Speaker Sir, my Government is committed to green growth in the State. It is necessary to create an effective institutional mechanism for this purpose. For this, Regional Offices will be set up in the Environment Department.

142. A Research Centre will be established in the Department of Environment, Science Technology and Climate Change for carrying out research in the use of

Bio-degradable material including Pattals for making plates and cutlery etc. This will be established and run under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

143. Speaker Sir, our Government has prepared a detailed plan to take forward the vision of Late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi about '**Digital India**'. I would like to highlight this plan in the paras to follow.

Digitization,
Governance
and
Information
Technology

144. To bring efficiency in Government work, e-office system will be established in Directorates and Deputy Commissioner Offices. All sections of State Secretariat will be connected to e-office from 1st July, 2023.

145. The '**Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline**' will be strengthened enabling citizens to register their complaints and to check their status. For this, Whatsapp and Chatbot facilities will be made available. Besides, facility of reporting information on stray animals will also be provided in the 'Chief Minister's Seva Sankalp Helpline'. A mobile application will also be developed for citizens to report stray animals, which will be integrated with the '**Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline**'.

146. At present, data of some schemes is being collected manually by various departments under DBT. It takes a lot of time to send data to headquarters. To eliminate delay in data transmission and management, DBT portal will be developed for feeding data from the field level.

147. Our Government will formulate a comprehensive policy to promote drone usage and also drone

technology industry. Personnel of those departments which require trained people to use drones such as Police, Forest, Public Works, Disaster Management, Agriculture and Health etc., will be trained through certified training institutes.

148. Our Government will upgrade the State Data Centre. An **“Integrated Data Base Management System”** integrating the data bases of various departments will be created in next four months. The DBT mapping of different welfare schemes of departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Labour & Employment etc. will be done through this system. Expenditure of Rs.50 crore is proposed for this purpose.

149. To have relevant data of the families on a single platform, the process of setting up a registry named **“Him Parivar”** has been started. Information related to family members will be integrated in this registry through data of PDS, e-Kalyan and other portals. Under this, one Unique ID will be provided to each beneficiary. People will get benefits of various Government schemes at one place in a very short time by submitting necessary documents only once and will not have to visit Government offices repeatedly. This arrangement will be put in place in next four months.

150. To provide 4G services to uncovered villages in the State, laying of Optical Fiber Cable will be started soon. This will be a step towards providing reliable and high speed connectivity to every part of the State. Necessary steps will be taken to make 5G services

available to people of the State, so that the education, health, transport services are provided effectively to the people. For this, Rs.50 crore will be spent in 2023-24.

151. Presently, 5,000 Lokmitra Kendras are working in the State. The number of Lokmitra Kendras will be increased to 6,000 to provide more employment opportunities. This will result in availability of more internet based services in the rural areas.

152. Speaker Sir, the work of online registration is being successfully implemented in 175 Sub-Registrar Offices of the Revenue Department. In 2023-24, the facility of online registration will be made available in the entire State.

Land
Administration,
Reform and
Disaster
Management

153. After successful implementation of 'Swamitva Yojana' in Hamirpur district, our Government has set a target to complete implementation of this scheme in remaining districts by March, 2024. With this, property cards will be distributed to concerned parties.

154. Under HP Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1972, a son in the family is considered as a separate unit while girls are denied this right. Due to this provision, considering son as a separate family unit, an individual has the right to own land more than the permissible limit. Daughters will be made a separate unit by amending the HP Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1972.

155. To provide weather information in Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur districts, Doppler radar will be installed with the help of Indian Meteorological Centre. It is also proposed to set up a Hi-tech '**Earthquake Laboratory-cum-Data Analyses Centre**' in Kangra/Hamirpur area.

156. Under the '**Aapada Mitra Yojana**', 1,500 community volunteers will be trained in 9 districts of Himachal Pradesh which are prone to floods, landslides and earthquakes by 2024, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

157. Approval of Rs.800 crore Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Project (DRRP) with assistance from AFD (*Agence Française de Développement*) would be expedited.

158. Himachal Pradesh Land Code and Land Records Manual will be revised by our Government. The Land Code and Rules are over 30 years old and are required to be amended and simplified suitably. Rules will be amended to make mutation and demarcation time bound so that the public will not have to visit revenue offices repeatedly.

Resource
Mobilization

159. Speaker Sir, for the first time our Government has made efforts to mobilize additional resources through several measures, in view of the difficult financial position of the State:-

- ✓ Imposition of '**Water Cess**' on the water used for power generation.
- ✓ Our Government has made changes in its Excise Policy to make it more transparent. More revenue can be mobilized by following a more transparent and open auction process.
- ✓ Government will start "**GST Revenue Enhancement Project**" to neutralise the deficit resulting from discontinuation of GST

compensation. The project is expected to generate additional revenue of about Rs.250 crore, over and above normal tax buoyancy.

- ✓ A new scheme **“Sadbhavna Yojana - 2023”** will be started this year to facilitate traders, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. Under this, pending cases under the General Sales Tax Act, Central Sales Tax Act and Entry Tax Act would be settled.
- ✓ **‘Milk Cess’** of Rs.10 per bottle will be imposed on liquor sold in the State, which will fetch Rs.100 crore every year. This levy will be used to increase income of milk producers through increased milk production.
- ✓ Check on illegal mining to generate additional resources through mining.

There will be no impact of these steps on common people of the State. Our Government will continue with these efforts and will also take necessary steps to contain wasteful expenditure and rationalize public spending.

160. Speaker Sir, in line with our Government's guarantee of providing employment to the youth, I announce to start **"Mukhya Mantri Rozgar Sankalp Seva"**. For this purpose, necessary changes will be made in **Employment MIS Software**. Youth of far-flung areas will be made aware of the employment opportunities available in the State, rest of the country and internationally through this portal to facilitate their placement.

Labour and
Employment

161. As a new initiative, to provide overseas employment to the youth of the State, Labour and Employment Department will help in providing youth with access to jobs/placements outside the country by establishing contact with various embassies and outside and overseas Himachalis.

Home/Law and
Order

162. Speaker Sir, our Government will take effective steps to stop organized drug trafficking and neutralise criminals. Drug trafficking is a big challenge being faced by society. Strict instructions have been given by my Government to confiscate illegal property acquired by drug peddlers through drug trafficking.

163. To provide housing to police personnel in urban areas, housing units will be constructed above the existing Police Stations buildings in towns or in land adjacent to Police Stations.

164. Our Government is committed to maintain law and order in the State. Special emphasis will be laid on modernization of the police force. Drones will be used by police to keep close eye on crime and illegal mining activities.

Language and
Culture

165. Speaker Sir, the historic Bantony Castle of Shimla will soon be opened for tourists and common citizens. A virtual and digital museum will be set up in Bantony Castle for entertainment of tourists. **"Manav Sangrahalaya"** and a park will also be set up in this facility.

166. **"Himachal-Utsav"** will be organized in major cities of different States in the country to showcase art and culture of Himachal Pradesh.

167. Sports hostels with 30 beds will be constructed at 'Khelo India Centres'. Khelo India Centre, Bilaspur will be made functional immediately.

Youth Services
and Sports

168. Awareness camps to promote sports will be organized with the help of Health and Police Departments in De-addiction Centres so that the youth are weaned away from drug addiction.

169. Speaker Sir, equitable and balanced development of scheduled areas and welfare of tribal people is top priority of our Government. To achieve this objective, Rs.857 crore has been kept under the 'Tribal Area Development Program (TADP)' in 2023-24. Besides, an outlay of Rs.335 crore is proposed in the Central Schemes under 'Tribal Area Development Programme'.

Tribal
Development

170. The work on establishing Tribal Research and Training Institute at Ghanahatti, Shimla will be expedited.

171. Speaker Sir, our Government will speed up the process of filling up 15 percent posts reserved for ex-servicemen in departments on priority.

Sanik welfare

172. Speaker Sir, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies play an important role in the economy. Their records will be computerised for ensuring better financial management of the societies. In the first phase, 870 societies are being computerized. By 2027, all societies will be computerized.

Cooperation

173. The para-workers play an important role in implementation of different schemes in the State. I

Increase in
Honorarium

announce an increase in the honourarium of these para-workers as follows:—

- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Anganwari Workers will get Rs.9,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Mini Anganwari Workers will get Rs.6,600 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Anganwari Sahayikas will get Rs.5,200 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Asha Workers will get Rs.5,200 per month honorarium.
- Honorarium of Silai Teachers will increase by Rs.500 per month.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Mid-Day Meal Workers will get Rs.4,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Jal Rakshak (Education Department) will get Rs.4,400 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Water Guards will get Rs.5,000 per month honorarium.
- With the increase of Rs.500 per month, the recently appointed Multi-Purpose Workers of Jal Shakti Vibhag will get Rs.4,400 per month.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Para Fitters and Pump Operators will get Rs.6,000 per month honorarium.

- Daily wagers will get Rs.375 per day with an increase of Rs.25.
- With above increase, the outsourced workers will get minimum wages of Rs.11,250 per month.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Panchayat Chowkidar will get Rs.7,000 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Revenue Chowkidars will get Rs.5,500 per month honorarium.
- With an increase of Rs.500 per month, Revenue Lambardaar will get Rs.3,700 per month honorarium.
- Rs.500 per month will be increased in the honorarium of SMC teachers.
- The IT teachers will get an increase of Rs.2,000 per month.
- Special Police Officer (SPOs) will get an increase of Rs.500 per month.

174. Like every year, our Government also successfully organized meetings with the Honourable MLAs in the month of February. Based on the suggestions made in these meetings and keeping in view the critical financial situation, I make the following announcements:—

MLA Priorities

- A considerable proportion of Constituencies have already crossed the permissible limit for posing the DPRs for funding from NABARD. Whereas, some of the Legislative Assembly Constituencies are still lagging behind others. Based on the suggestions made by the Hon'ble MLAs, the revised guidelines for MLA

priority schemes will be issued shortly to remove these inequalities.

- The amount for the last quarter of 2022-23 under the 'MLA's Area Development Fund Scheme' could not be released due to lack of financial resources. The conditions are still critical and are going to become harsher in the coming times. Despite this, I announce to release these funds in 2023-24 with an increase from Rs.2 crore to Rs.2 crore 10 lakh per Assembly Constituency.
- The Discretionary Grants for the Hon'ble MLAs will be increased from Rs.12 lakh to Rs.13 lakh per Assembly Constituency.

Recruitments

175. Our Government will fill up 25,000 functional posts on priority this year. Government will fill up the posts of various categories in Health Department including specialist doctors, doctors, nurses, radiographers, OT assistants, lab technicians, pharmacists, MRI technicians, ECG technicians including other technicians, faculty in medical colleges, teachers of various categories and instructors in Technical Education Department, teachers of various categories in Education Department, police constables, various posts in Revenue Department, doctors and other workers in Animal Husbandry Department, staff of Urban Local Bodies, panchayat secretaries, technical assistants and gram rozgaar sahayak in Panchayats, para-fitters, pump operators and multi task part time workers in Jal Shakti Vibhag, technical posts of lineman, junior T-mate etc. in the State Electricity Board, clerks in various departments, JOA (IT) etc.

176. The Government will also make all efforts to ensure timely payments of due benefits to the outsource workers of the State. It will also be ensured that these workers are not exploited in any manner. Necessary directions will be issued in this regard.

177. Speaker Sir, I now come to the Revised Estimates for 2022-23. According to the revised estimates for the year 2022-23, the total revenue receipts are Rs. 38,945 crore. According to the Revised Estimates of 2022-23, the total revenue expenditure is estimated to be Rs.45,115 crore. Similarly, as per the Revised Estimates for 2022-23, the revenue deficit is estimated to be Rs.6,170 crore.

Budget
Estimates

178. Speaker Sir, I am presenting a budget of Rs.53,413 crore for 2023-24.

179. In the year 2023-24, the revenue receipts are estimated to be Rs.37,999 crore and the total revenue expenditure Rs.42,704 crore. Thus, the total revenue deficit is estimated to be Rs.4,704 crore. Fiscal deficit is estimated to be Rs.9,900 crore which is 4.61 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product.

180. I am sure that resources will be arranged with effective tax compliance, cooperation of the Government of India and better financial management.

181. As per the budget of 2023-24, out of every 100 Rupees spent, Rs.26 will be spent on salary, Rs.16 on pension, Rs.10 on interest payment, Rs.10 on loan repayment, Rs.9 on grant to autonomous institutions, while the balance Rs.29 will be spent on other activities including capital works. Full details of the next year's budget are available in the detailed budget documents

being presented in this August House. Apart from this, the FRBM statement is also being presented along with the budget.

182. Speaker Sir, main highlights of this Budget Speech are highlighted in **Annexure**.

183. Speaker Sir, my first Budget is an important beginning in the direction of bringing systemic changes. A new direction has been given to the development strategy for developing Himachal as a Green State and for countering adverse effects of global warming and climate change. The budget emphasizes on increased investment on infrastructure in tourism, transport, roads and bridges and power sectors and also on strengthening health, education and other citizen centric services through digitization. The increased investment will result in creation of additional employment opportunities for youth of the State and will also improve service delivery. Sukh-Ashray Scheme and various other initiatives have been proposed to widen the social security net for making State's development more inclusive. New initiatives in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries will prove to be game changers in increasing income of farmers and horticulturists. These policy changes will not only make fundamentals of State's economy strong but will also make future of Himachal green, prosperous and healthy.

Speaker Sir, I would like to recommend this budget to the Hon'ble House.

Jai Hind – Jai Himachal

Annexure

Budget Highlights

Main points of budget:-

1. Budget size proposed as Rs.53 thousand 413 crore.
2. To develop Himachal Pradesh as Green Energy State by 31st March, 2026.
3. Priority to Tourism Development.
4. Expansion of health services through World Class Technology.
5. Initiatives for improvement in quality of education.
6. Expansion in the social security net.
7. New opportunities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors.
8. Promoting basic infrastructure and private investment
9. Digitization and Governance.
10. Welfare of para workers, MNGEGS workers, small traders and other categories
11. Efforts for additional resource generation

1. Expansion of Green Energy

- To develop Himachal Pradesh as a 'Green Energy State' by 31st March, 2026.
- A target to set up Solar Energy Projects of 500 MW in 2023-24.
- 40% subsidy to youth of the State for setting up of Solar Energy Projects with the capacity ranging from 250 KW to 2MW on their own / leased land.

- Himachal Pradesh will be developed as a **‘Model State for Electric Vehicles’**. Electric vehicles will be encouraged in a phased manner with the collaboration of private and public sectors.
- In the first phase, 6 National and State Highways will be developed as Green Corridors for electric vehicles.
- The private bus/truck operators will be given subsidy of 50 percent with the maximum limit of Rs.50 lakh for purchase of e-bus and e-truck. Private operators will be given subsidy of 50 percent for establishing Electric Charging Stations.
- 1,500 diesel buses of HRTC will be replaced with e-buses in phased manner with an expenditure of Rs.1,000 crore.
- A subsidy of Rs.25,000 each to 20,000 meritorious girl students for purchase of ‘Electric Scooty’.
- To make Himachal Pradesh a leading Green Hydrogen Based Economy, a Green Hydrogen Policy will be brought.
- Hydro Power Projects with capacity of 1,000 MWs will be completed.
- 2 Gram Panchayats in each district will be developed as Green Panchayats on pilot basis.
- **‘Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme’** costing Rs.2,000 crore with help of World Bank will be launched.
- 6 EHV Sub-Stations, 5 transmission lines at a cost of Rs.464 crore and a **‘Joint Control Centre’** will be established by the HPTCL.
- A **‘Centralized Cell’** will be set up for efficient management of sale and purchase of power.

2. Tourism Development

- ✓ Land acquisition process will be started for Mandi and Kangra Airports.
- ✓ Heliports will be constructed/developed at all district headquarters.
- ✓ Heli-taxi services will be operationalized from Sanjauli and Baddi shortly.
- ✓ Kangra district will be developed as **“Tourism Capital”** of Himachal Pradesh.
 - A **“Golf course”** meeting international standards will be developed.
 - **“Tourist Village”** will be established for promoting local art and culture.
 - Old Age Homes will be developed for senior citizens.
 - Development of Ice skating and roller-skating rinks.
 - Promotion of water sports, shikara, cruise, yacht facilities in Pong Dam.
 - A zoo will be set up in Bankhandi at a cost of Rs.300 crore.
- A comprehensive tourism development scheme has been prepared with a cost of Rs.1,311 crore with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for development of eco tourism, beautification of heritage sites and tourism facilities in Kangra, Hamirpur, Kullu, Shimla, Mandi and other districts.
- To start skilling courses in tourism and hospitality sectors for the youth of Himachal Pradesh, the **‘Centre of Excellence’** at Waknaghat will be completed at a cost of Rs.68 crore.

3. Strengthening and Expansion of Health Services

- Robotic Surgery facility will be provided in all Medical Colleges in a phased manner.
- The buildings of Medical Colleges of Hamirpur, Nahan and Chamba will be completed with a cost of Rs. 100 crore and dedicated to the public and Nursing Colleges in these Medical Colleges will be started.
- The Casualty Department of all Medical Colleges will be upgraded to Emergency Medicine Department.
- One health institute in each Assembly Constituency will be developed as **“Adarsh Swasthaya Sansthan”**.
- A **‘Centre of Excellence’** for Cancer Care and Nuclear Medicine Department will be set up in Medical College Hamirpur with a cost of Rs.50 crore.
- PET Scan in all the Medical Colleges of the State.
- **“Himachal Pradesh Medical Services Corporation”** will be established for procurement of quality medicines, machinery and equipment for health institutions.
- Pregnant women and children suffering from Type-I diabetes will be provided insulin pumps to protect them from serious infections.

4. Initiatives for Improvement in Quality of Education

- Emphasis on qualitative improvement of education.
- **‘Rajiv Gandhi Government Day-Boarding Schools’** will be opened in each Assembly Constituency with sports facilities, swimming pools etc. These will be composite schools from pre-primary to class-12.

- To enable youth of the State to prepare for various competitive exams, construction of libraries with the access to National Digital Library and other essential books.
- Employment Melas and special placement drives will be organized twice in a year in colleges.
- To improve quality of education and introduce Information and Communication Technology (ICT), library room will be established in each Senior Secondary School, Tablets will be provided for 10,000 meritorious students, digital hardware and software in 762 Schools under 'ICT Scheme', Tablets for 17,510 primary regular teachers and arrangement of desks for 40,000 children will be made.
- Increase in diet money of students living in sports hostels from Rs.120 to Rs.240 per day.
- Value Added Courses in Technical Education, such as Robotics, Block-Chain Technology, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning, Electric Vehicles Mechanic, Maintenance Mechanic, Solar Technician, Drone Technician, Mechatronics and Internet of Things (IoTs) Technician etc. to be introduced.
- Drone Service Technician Course will be started in 11 Government Industrial Training Institutes of the State in a phased manner.
- Under the World Bank funded Project STRIVE, infrastructure and other facilities will be improved in 12 ITIs.
- **'MERITE Project'** will be implemented in 4 engineering colleges and 8 polytechnics in the next five years.
- Kaushal Vikas Nigam will train 500 youth each in Drone sector, Electric Vehicle, and Solar Energy sector.

5. Expansion in the Social Security Net

- To implement one of the guarantees, 2.31 lakh women will get the pension of Rs.1,500 per month on which Government will spend an amount of Rs.416 crore per year.
- A scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Ashray Yojana**" for orphans, semi-orphans, specially abled, destitute women and old people. The orphans/ persons upto the age of 27 years will be known as '**Children of State**' and State Government will look after them by following the principle of '**Sarkaar hee Mata - Sarkaar hee Pita**'.
- Under this scheme, '**Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Ashray Kosh**' with the provision of Rs.101 crore, upgradation of Shelter Homes for children, destitute women and elderly persons with all modern facilities, construction of '**Adarsh Gram Sukh-Ashray Parisar**' in Sundernagar and Jwalamukhi, educational tour outside the State once in a year for orphans including facility of air travel and stay in three star hotels.
- The expenditure on account of education, hostel, professional training and skill upgradation for the orphans between the age of 18-27 years will be borne by the State Government.
- "**Mukhya Mantri Rojgar Sankalp Seva**" will be started to provide employment opportunities to the youth at State, National and International level.
- Removal of the condition of income limit and Gram Sabha approvals to enable widows and Divyangjans to get pension.
- 9,000 new beneficiaries will be benefited under the Divyangjan "**Raahat Bhatta Yojana.**"

- 40,000 new eligible persons under social security pension.
- A new scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Vidhwa Evam Ekal Nari Awas Yojana**" for construction of houses for 7,000 eligible widows and single women.
- Education loan at the rate of 1 percent under new scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Vidyarthi Protsahan Yojana**" for eligible poor children to pursue professional higher education.
- A subsidy of Rs.25,000 each to 20,000 meritorious girl students for purchase of '**Electric Scooty**'.
- Launch of "**Mukhya Mantri Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyaan**".
- Launch of "**Nasha Evam Maadak Padarth Mukh Himachal Abhiyaan**".
- Concrete steps will be taken to stop drug trafficking and to arrest criminals. Illegal property earned through drug trafficking will be confiscated.

6. **New opportunities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors**

- Cluster approach based Integrated and Comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme "**Him Unnati**".
- Subsidy for using wire mesh for fencing fields under '**Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojana.**'
- Tractors will be provided to farmers at a subsidy of 50 percent under '**Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization**'.
- To encourage start-ups in agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and fisheries, credit to be given at an interest of 2 percent.

- A new scheme "**Him-Ganga**" to increase the milk production.
- Milk processing plants will be established and upgraded.
- Veterinary service will be started through 44 mobile vans.
- Development of horticulture in 7 districts with a cost of Rs.1,292 crore under '**HP SHIVA Project**'.
- Grading/ packing houses and cold stores will be set up in association with FPOs.
- An action plan will be drawn for fish farming based on new technology and interventions. 20 hectares new fish ponds will be constructed in private sector along with 120 new trout units. Fishermen will be provided 1,000 Cast Nets at subsidy.
- 80 percent subsidy for construction of fish ponds.
- To facilitate the training of fishermen, a training centre will be set up in Carp Farm Gagret.

7. Promoting Basic Infrastructure and Private Investment

- Financial assistance will be given for projects related to machinery and equipments in Dental Clinics, purchase of e-taxi, installation of solar power projects up to 1 MW among others under "**Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgaar Yojana**". Subsidy of 50 percent will be provided to all eligible sections on purchase of e-taxi.
- A new "**Industrial Investment Policy**" and establishment of "**Bureau of Investment Promotion**", to facilitate the investors.
- Private sector investment target of about Rs.20,000 crore in 2023-24 with a potential of providing 90,000 direct and indirect employment.

- For promoting 'One District One Product', "**Unity Mall**" will be established.
- 50 '**Him-Ira**' shops will be set up in the State for marketing and sale of the products of Self-Help Groups.
- 1,040 '**Amrit Sarovars**' will be completed by 15th August, 2023.
- Permits will be issued to run e-vehicles on 500 identified bus routes.
- Construction of 12 bus stands.
- Bus Port will be built in Hamirpur at a cost of Rs.10 crore.
- To address the parking problem in urban areas, construction of large parking lots will be undertaken in PPP mode.
- Construction of **Multi Utility Duct** in Shimla on pilot basis and a policy to lay the various utility lines.
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-I&II)**, construction of 150 km new roads, upgradation of 650 km roads, cross drainage work on 200 km roads and construction of 9 bridges.
- Under PMGSY-III, 45 roads having length of 440 kms with a cost of Rs.422 crores sanctioned.
- The State Government has sent proposal of Rs.4,700 crore to the Central Government for upgrading 5 National Highways of 178 kms length from 2 lanes to 4 lanes.
- Construction of 250 kms of new roads, 350 kms of cross drainages, 425 kms of metalled roads and 27 bridges under NABARD.
- 5 road/bridge projects worth Rs.500 crore have been sent to Government of India for funding under CRIF.

- Launch of new scheme "**Mukhya Mantri Sadak Evam Rakh-Rakhav Yojana.**"
- 10 percent of total project cost will be earmarked for source sustainability in the Detailed Project Reports and Estimates of water supply schemes and irrigation projects.
- Sanitation facilities will be provided in 5 cities of the State namely Manali, Bilaspur, Palampur, Nahan and Karsog.
- 5,000 posts of various categories for maintaining and operating drinking water supply, irrigation and sewerage schemes.
- Setting up a new town at Jathia Devi in Shimla.

8. Digitization and Governance

- e-office system will be established in State Secretariat, Directorates and Deputy Commissioner Offices.
- Whatsapp and Chatbot facilities will be used for '**Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline**'.
- A mobile application will be developed for citizens to report stray animals, which will be integrated with the '**Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline**'.
- To eliminate delay in providing various benefits to beneficiaries, DBT portal will be developed.
- A comprehensive policy to promote drone usage and drone technology, and drone enabled administration.
- Expansion of **State Data Centre**.
- Setting up a registry '**Him Parivar**' to have the relevant data of all families at one place. This will help people to get benefits of various Government schemes smoothly.
- Expansion of 4G and 5G services in the State.

- Number of Lok Mitra Kendras will be increased to 6,000.
- Computerization of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies.

9. Welfare of para workers, MGNREGS workers, small traders and other categories.

- With an increase in honorarium, Anganwadi workers will be getting Rs.9,500 per month, Mini Anganwadi workers Rs.6,600, Anganwadi helpers Rs.5,200, Asha workers Rs.5,200, Mid-day meal workers Rs.4,000, Water carrier (Education Department) Rs.4,400, Jal Rakshak Rs. 5,000, Jal Shakti Department's Multi-Purpose Workers of Jal Shakti Vibhag Rs. 4,400, Para fitters and pump-operators Rs.6,000, Daily wage earners Rs.375 per day with an increase of Rs.25, Outsourced workers Rs.11,250, Panchayat Chowkidar Rs.7,000, Revenue Chowkidar Rs.5,500, Revenue Lambardar Rs. 3,700. Besides these, increase in the honorarium of Silai Teacher of Rs.500, SMC Teacher of Rs.500, IT Teacher Rs.2,000 and SPOs of Rs.500, per month.
- In Panchayati Raj Institutions, the honorarium of Zila Parishad, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, will be increased by Rs.5,000 per month.
- Honourarium of Member Zila Parishad, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Panchayat Samiti, Member of Panchayat Samiti, Pradhan and Up-Pradhan of Gram Panchayat will be increased by Rs.500 per month, and Member of Gram Panchayat will get an increase of Rs.200 per sitting.
- In Urban Local Bodies, the honorarium of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporation will be increased by Rs.5,000 per month.

- Councilor of Municipal Corporation, President Nagar Parishad, Vice-President Nagar Parishad, Councilor Nagar Parishad, Pradhan Nagar Panchayat, Up-Pradhan Nagar Panchayat and Member Nagar Panchayat will get an increase of Rs.500 per month in honorarium.
- MGNREGA wages will be increased by Rs.28 which will benefit 9 lakh MGNREGA workers. Additional, Rs.100 crore on account of this will be borne by the State Government.
- Under **“Mukhya Mantri Laghu Dukandaar Kalyan Yojana”** 50 percent subsidy on interest up to the loan of Rs.50 thousand will be provided to small businessmen like Tailor, Barber, Tea Stall Owner & Street Vander's, Kriyana Shops etc.

10. Others

- Under **‘Vidhayak Kshetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana’**, the amount will be increased to Rs.2 crore 10 lakh per Assembly Constituency.
- **‘Discretionary Grants’** for Hon'ble MLA will be increased to Rs.13 lakh per Assembly Constituency.
- For **‘MLA priority schemes’**, new guidelines will be issued based on the suggestions made by the Hon'ble MLAs.
- To curb illegal mining in the border areas **‘Flying Squad’** will be constituted.
- For providing the information about buses, charging stations and other facilities GIS based **“Vehicle Location App”** will be launched by HRTC.
- The work of online registration in Revenue Department will be implemented in the entire State.

- The **“Swamitva Yojna”** will be implemented in the remaining districts by March, 2024.
- **“Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1972”**, will be amended and daughters will be made a separate unit.
- To provide weather information in Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts, **Doppler Radars** will be installed.
- 1,500 community volunteers will be trained in flood, landslide and earthquake prone districts under **“Aapda Mitra Yojna”**
- Constitution of District Level Committees for quick disposal of Forest Clearance Cases.
- Green cover to be expanded under **“Mukhya Mantri Green Cover Mission”**
- Himachal Pradesh Land Code and Land Records Manual will be amended for the convenience of the general public and simplification in the processes.
- Residential facilities will be made available to police personnel in urban areas.
- Drones will be used by the Police Department to keep a close watch on crimes and mining activities.
- **“Himachal Utsav”** will be organized in major cities of different States to showcase art and culture of Himachal Pradesh.
- 25,000 posts will be filled up.

11. Efforts for Additional Resource Generation

- To reduce the loss of GST compensation, **“GST Revenue Enhancement Project”** will be started.

- Under '**Sadbhavna Yojana 2023**' pending cases under various Acts of traders, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers will be settled.
- Changes in Excise Policy made to make it more transparent.
- Milk Cess of Rs. 10 per bottle of liquor will be imposed, this levy will be used to increase the income of milk producers.
- Imposition of '**Water Cess**' on the water used for power generation.