

**Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,**

1. On the occasion of the First Session of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in the year 2011, I extend a warm welcome to all of you. As the session is being held in the beginning of the New Year, I also convey to you and through you to the people of the State, my hearty greetings and good wishes for the new year.

2. My Government completed three years on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 and these three years have witnessed all round development of the State and has ensured welfare of all sections of the society with special emphasis on weaker sections and the downtrodden. State government has fulfilled all the promises made to the people of the State during the Assembly elections, and has moved a step further by initiating various welfare oriented policies and programmes. Our endeavour has been to benefit the 'common man' through the policies and programmes of the Government.

3. These three years have been of remarkable achievements and it is a matter of pride for all of us that Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged as '**Best Big State**' in the 'State of States' survey conducted by India Today magazine in 2010 for excelling in the sectors of Education, Governance, Investment, Macro-Economy, Consumer Market and Infrastructure development. In another survey conducted by the national magazine 'Agriculture Today', Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged as the Best State for its outstanding policy initiatives and performance in the field of Agriculture development and was conferred '**The State Agriculture Leadership Award 2010**'. The Award committee for this was headed by the father of green revolution and Ramon Magasasay Award winner Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.

4. The State has also been ranked at **number One, getting 100 out of 100 marks in the implementation of Twenty Point Programme** by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, which proves State Government's commitment for socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections, the poor and the downtrodden and to take development at the grassroots level.

5. It has come up as '**Best Travel Destination**' in the survey conducted by CNBC Awaaz electronic Media channel. CNBC has awarded Himachal Pradesh as the '**Best Hill Destination**'. Outlook Traveler has announced three awards on the basis of a survey whereby **Manali has been adjudged as 'Best Hill Destination', 'State as Best Summer Destination' and 'Himachal Pradesh as Best Adventure Destination'**.

6. You will be glad to know that IBN-7 Electronic Channel and Outlook Magazine in a glittering function on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011 at Delhi presided over by His Excellency, Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari has given Himachal Pradesh **Diamond State Award for Best Performance in Education and Poverty Alleviation** on the basis of a countrywide survey conducted by it. Himachal Pradesh was also adjudged the '**Best State**' in this survey based on vigorous parameters and adjudicated in a jury of eminent personalities of the country from various fields.

7. My Government is committed to the upliftment of the under privileged and weaker sections of society. The Government has taken several policy decisions for socio-economic development of these sections, especially the senior citizens, women, children, disabled persons, SCs, STs and OBCs. 2,67,282 persons are getting social security pension on which Rs. 107.30 crore are being spent. Under **Social Security Pension Scheme**, the State Government has revised the annual income limit from Rs 6000 to Rs 9000 in

case of an individual and in case of family the income limit has been raised from Rs 11000 to Rs 15000 per annum, over and above the individual income. Besides, '**Ekal Naris**' i.e. single women over the age of 45 years, have been brought under the ambit of Social Security Pension Scheme.

8. The State Government has launched the scheme '**Beti Hai Anmol**' to benefit the girl child under which, post birth grant of Rs. 5100/- per girl is being provided up to 2 girl children in a BPL family. This amount is deposited in a post office/bank and can be drawn by the girl after attaining the age of 18 years. Besides, scholarships ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs 1500 per annum are also being provided to these girls from class 1<sup>st</sup> to 10+2 standard. A provision of Rs. 152 lakh has been made under the scheme in the current financial year. Under SCSP an allocation of Rs. 742 crore has been made for the current financial year. State Government is providing housing subsidy to low income families belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs for construction of houses and 3760 housing units are being constructed during current year for which there is provision of Rs. 15.74 crore. The amount of subsidy given for construction of new houses has been enhanced from Rs.38500 to Rs.48500.

9. My Government has accorded top priority for developing agriculture sector so as to increase production and productivity besides improving the rural economy. '**Pt. Deen Dyal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna**' is being implemented successfully in the State. The farmers are being provided necessary technology support, inputs and marketing infrastructure so that they can get full benefit out of this scheme. This has also helped in creating on farm employment opportunities for the rural youth. Under Soil Health Management, around 3.5 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed amongst the farmers. Soil Testing Laboratories have also been strengthened by providing required equipments and specialized manpower. For promotion of organic farming, 3.5 lakh Vermi-Compost Units have

been set up and 21,000 farmers have been registered for organic farming so far. Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme on Tomato has been extended for Sadar Block of Bilaspur District on pilot basis.

10. My Government has strengthened the extension of horticulture development activities to the farmer's field with utmost perseverance. The area under horticulture has increased to 2.08 lakh hectare and a record fruit production of 10.24 Lakh MT has been done during this year. 682 hectare has been brought under floriculture with an annual flower production worth Rs. 42 crore. During 2010-11, an expenditure of Rs.85 crore is being made for horticulture research and development programmes in the State. Free extension services and quality horticulture inputs are being made available on subsidized rates to the farmers. To ensure remunerative prices, Apple, Mango and Citrus fruits are being procured under **Market Intervention Scheme** and record procurement of 1.11 lakh MT apples has been made during year 2010-11. For the integrated development of horticulture, the State Plan schemes are being supplemented with funds from the centrally sponsored schemes '**Horticulture Mission for Northeast and Himalayan States**' and '**Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna**' 1,08,500 farmers have benefited under Horticulture Mission so far.

11. To enhance apple productivity, '**Apple Rejuvenation Project**' has been launched for which assistance amounting to Rs. 3.50 crore has been approved for covering 500 hectare during year 2010-11. **The Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme** for Apple and Mango crops is being successfully implemented in the State. To prevent crop damage due to hailstorm, **Anti Hail Guns** have been installed at three selected sites i.e. Kathasu, Deorighat and Bareonghat with radar at Khadapathar in District Shimla on a pilot basis.

12. Animal Husbandry activities are integral to the agrarian economy of the State. A network of 2,137 veterinary institutions is providing services in the State. 187 new Veterinary Dispensaries have been opened under '**Mukhyamantri Arogya Pashudhan Yojna**' during this year. '**Doodh Ganga Yojna**' has been modified and loans from Nationalized Banks are available to individual farmers or self -help groups with 25% subsidy to farmers of general category and 33.33% subsidy to farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste/Tribe for purchasing cows and equipment for making milk products and setting up of veterinary clinics, etc.. To provide remunerative prices to the milk producers, cold chain facilities for milk and milk products have been strengthened at a cost of Rs. 208.38 lakh. In last three years the milk procurement rates have increased from Rs. 10.80 to Rs. 15.80 per litre by the present Government, thereby increasing incomes of farmers and strengthening the rural economy.

13. To give boost to Sheep, Goat and Rabbit rearing in the State, '**Bhed Palak Samridhi Yojna**' has been launched in the State from October 2010. Loan facility from nationalized banks is being given to individual farmers and self help groups for establishing units of sheep and goats in District Mandi, Kangra and Chamba and establishing rabbit units in District Kullu and Shimla on 33.33% subsidy. To provide remunerative prices of wool to sheep breeders, the State Government is providing support price on wool. Besides, the State Government is also providing 15% Grant- in- aid on total procurement cost as handling charges under the scheme of Market Development Assistance to HP State Wool Federation.

14. My Government is committed to provide better health services to the people of the State at their door-steps. With a view to provide free emergency medical care and transportation, the State Government has started ambitious "**Atal Swasthya Sewa**" scheme on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 in

seven districts of the State. This helpline is attending to about 1800 calls daily providing emergency services to about 180 persons including pregnant women. This service is expected to help in reducing Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio besides strengthening overall health security in the State.

15. My Government has launched “**Matri Sewa Yojana**” for improving maternal and child health services, which has resulted in increase in institutional deliveries. The State Government has waived off all the charges in all government health institutions for both normal and caesarean deliveries. In case of any complication, transportation to the higher level health institutions is also arranged at State expense. Medicines and other facilities are also being provided free and assistance is provided to transport the mother and the child to their home on discharge from the hospital.

16. The State Government has implemented a project namely ‘**Muskan**’ for providing free dentures to persons aged 65 years or above and also to the BPL families. It is a matter of pride to all of us that our State has been adjudged best in performance in enrolment under **Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojna**. We have enrolled 2, 35,131 BPL families under the RSBY under which Rs. 30,000 for basic care and Rs. 1.75 lakh is being provided for critical care. My Government has introduced ‘**Mukhya-Mantri Vidyarthi Swasthya Karyakram**’ under which a team of doctors and other para medical staff visit each cluster of schools every year. About 3 lakh students have been covered under the scheme.

17. Last year State Government was successful in increasing PG seats in medical colleges from 39 to 70. With these efforts, PG courses are now available in almost all specialities in IGMC. 64 Slice CT scan facility has been made operational in IGMC, Shimla. An Eye Bank has been set up and

Tele-Cobalt unit has been made operational. To improve nursing education, we have started degree course in Nursing in IGMC last year. To further boost the facilities in Dr. Rajendera Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, a 200 bedded super speciality hospital is being established which will provide facilities in various specialities. The State Government has approved creation of posts of doctors and recruitment process has already started.

18. In order to promote better health care facilities in rural and urban areas of the State, my Government has created 155 posts of Ayurveda Chikitsa Adhikaries in the Department of Ayurveda of which department has already filled 66 posts on batch wise basis and 12 posts are being filled up shortly. The remaining 77 posts are being filled through Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission. The Department has appointed 30 Ayurvedic Pharmacists and other paramedical staff. Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Science College has been started at Jogindernagar with intake capacity of 30 students per year for 4 years degree course in B.Pharma Ayurved. The Department is establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence in Geriatric Health Care at Paprola and Centre for Excellence in Dravyaguna & medicinal plants at Jogindernagar. During the current financial year, the department has completed the work of 13 ayurvedic buildings.

19. My Government has accorded top priority for the provision of safe drinking water and extending irrigation facilities to the farmers of the State. There is a target to cover 5000 habitations with safe drinking water facility during the current financial year, of which 3475 habitations have been covered up to January, 2011. In addition, 1794 hand pumps have been installed. A survey regarding water supply was got conducted through Department of Economics and Statistics, wherein 84% consumers were reported to be getting potable water through taps. My Government has constituted H.P. Water Management Board which will prepare a policy for

long term use of water resources and coordinate efforts of different Government Departments involved in land and water management. My Government is also stressing sustainability measures mainly through Rain Water Harvesting Structures in the State and all Government buildings, Institutional buildings, Schools, Hotels and Industrial Units are required to construct roof top rain water harvesting structures for non-domestic use. My Government has started Chief Minister's Rain Water Harvesting Award Scheme for NGOs, Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, Individuals, Institutions and Corporate Sector for excellent work in water conservation.

20. In the Irrigation Sector, 3532 hectare have been covered against a target of 6500 hectare and thereby a total area of 2.39 lakh hectare out of 3.35 lakh hectare culturable command area has been covered. An allocation of Rs.252 crore was made during the current financial year. In addition, an amount of Rs.155 crore is being spent on channelization of Swan river in Una and Bata river in Sirmour. Water Supply Schemes in 43 towns have been augmented. In sewerage sector, work to provide sewerage facility in 24 towns is in progress.

21. Development of fisheries is being given priority with special emphasis on construction of new seed farms and expansion of fish rearing space at the existing farms, expansion of commercial trout farming in the private sector and stocking of fish seed in the open waters so as to maintain sustained increase in fish production. The State has not only provided premium free insurance cover to its 7118 fishermen but also increased its limit from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. one lakh during the current financial year. Fishermen welfare schemes such as **closed season assistance and risk fund** were continued for the welfare of reservoir fishermen and Rs.24.30 lakh have been provided to them. Training in fisheries related activities form an integral part

of the scheme. 180 fish farmers and 1235 fishermen were given training till December, 2010.

22. To make Himachal a Herbal State, an ambitious programme '**Jan-Jan Sanjivni Van Abhiyan**' was launched in the State on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2008. Three new plantation schemes: **Sanjha Van- Sanjivini Van, Apna Van-Apna Dhan and Pipal - Bargad Plantation** have also been started by the government as awareness campaign by involving elderly people. A new scheme '**Van Sarovar**' is being executed under MNREGA to conserve soil and water and to improve moisture regime by recharging the ground water, to control forest fires and provide drinking water to wildlife and cattle. This year the forest area affected by forest fires came down to 2082.55 hectare from 24849.52 hectare during the last year. Three new Forest Divisions at Shimla, Rampur and Kullu have been created to expedite the drive against encroachments in forest areas.

23. We have established **Van Thanas** for preventing, detecting and taking action against forests offenders in an effective manner. 17 Van Thanas have been approved to be established out of which 10 Van Thanas have started functioning. To control the population of monkeys, sterilization of monkeys at Tutikandi in Shimla, Sastar in district Hamirpur and Gopalpur in district Kangra is in progress. The fourth center at Una is likely to be operational by March this year. To address problems of the people residing in and around wildlife sanctuaries, rationalization of sanctuary areas is in progress.

24. Himachal Pradesh is poised to become the **First Carbon Neutral State** of the Country. To make Himachal Pradesh a Carbon Neutral State and to reduce the green house gas emission, a **Bio-Carbon Sub Project under Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project** is being

implemented under the guidance of the World Bank. During the last three years Rs. 117.37 crore have been spent on various development activities of plantation, soil and water conservation, rural livelihoods and infrastructure under the **Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project** . This year an annual outlay of Rs. 42.17 crore has been made for compensatory afforestation, Catchment Area Treatment and wild life protection activities in the State Sector.

25. My Government is committed for speedy economic development of Scheduled Tribes for which 9% outlay of Annual State Plan has been earmarked for implementation of Tribal Sub Plan. For promoting education, various incentives like free text books, free education up to matric, pre and post matric scholarship, Thakur Sen Negi Scholarship, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for M. Phil & Ph.D. students and Pre- examination coaching is being provided. To provide hostel accommodation for ST students, 7 hostels with a capacity of 446 students with an estimated cost of Rs.11.55 crore are under construction. One Eklavya Model Residential School at Nichar with an estimated cost of Rs. 15.63 crore is also under construction.

26. The road sector is amongst the top priorities of the State Government. Of the 17449 census villages, 9579 already stand connected with motorable road. During 2010-11, 413 kms. new motorable and 14 kms. 34 bridges were constructed whereas 38 villages were connected with road. During this period, against the proposed target of 2000 kms. the renewal coat had been provided on 1577 km. road length till now. So far 1814 road works with a road length of 8973 kms. to connect 3870 habitations at the cost of Rs. 1905 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. As of now 1269 works have been completed and 2986 habitations have been provided

connectivity for which Rs.1151 crore have been spent. Efforts are continuing to provide connectivity to the remaining habitations.

27. Ministry of Rural Development has also approved 266 road proposals of 3105 kms. road length with an estimated cost of Rs 534 crore for up-gradation of main routes and rural links under Bharat Nirman programme. 162 upgradation works with a cost of Rs.331 crore have been completed and 2072 Kms. of roads have been improved. Till December, 2010, Rs 102 crore has been utilized for new connectivity as well as for upgradation of roads during the current financial year.

28. With the efforts of the State Government, 2 new National Highways have been sanctioned for the State thereby increasing the total length of National Highways in Himachal Pradesh from 1247 kms. to 1458 kms. Government of India has also accorded in principle approval to sanction 5 new National Highways for the State in the current financial year. Out of 3243 Gram Panchayats in the State, 270 are yet to be connected by motorable road. Work is in progress for 235 Gram Panchayats under PMGSY, Bharat Nirman, NABARD and State funding. Efforts would be made to provide connectivity to the balance 35 Panchayats also. During the financial year 2010-11, we have obtained the sanction of Rs.403 crore from NABARD for the road and bridge projects, minor irrigation and drinking water supply projects against the target of Rs.400 crore. This will help to improve the rural infrastructure in the State.

29. During this financial year, various measures have been taken for rationalization of tax rates, streamlining of various levels of tax authorities, revamping of Tax Barriers and Flying Squads etc.. Tax Identification Numbers have been issued to almost 75% dealers with live registration and efforts are on to issue TINs to all such dealers by March, 2011 with a view to

facilitate the traders in inter-state trade and better tax administration. The department has launched its independent web-portal dedicated to facilitate traders and dealers of the State. The process of e-payment has also been started to facilitate industrial and trading communities to remit taxes through internet from any location at anytime from anywhere in the country.

30. Two and one biswa land plots have been allotted in rural and urban area respectively to 200 poor houseless persons who had no land for construction of house. The H.P. Lease Rules, 1993 have been amended and it has been provided that if land is leased out to educational institutions, 10% of the total seats will be reserved for the students from BPL families, who shall be provided free books and will not be charged tuition fee.

31. My Government is making sincere efforts to make Himachal Pradesh an 'Educational Hub' of the country by opening educational institutions of excellence in the State. In the last three years, a State Technical University and 10 universities in the private sector have been set up in the Pradesh. Besides, a Central University, IIT Mandi and National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kangra have come up in the State. The process for setting up an Engineering College in the State sector, a Medical College and a Hospital, both run by ESIC, is well under way.

32. Himachal Pradesh has made phenomenal progress in improvement of access and retention of school children at elementary level. State has achieved 99.7% enrollment in the 6-14 years age group. '**Adhar**' and '**Samridhi**' programmes have been implemented in the elementary schools in the State to improve the teaching learning processes. The State Government has appointed large number of new teachers in the schools, besides implementing a scheme for the re-employment of teachers after their retirement till the completion of academic session so that studies are not

adversely affected on account of vacancies of teachers. The State Government has also initiated the process for recruitment of 1000 C&V teachers for elementary schools.

33. Himachal Pradesh was among the first few States in the country to effectively implement the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. For encouraging girls' education, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level is also being implemented in eight educationally backward Blocks of Chamba, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts. Free text books are being provided to all the girls from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. An effort has also been made to meet the educational needs of disabled children by attempting to bring in 19,248 identified children with special needs into the elementary school network.

34. My Government has created a separate Department for Sainik Welfare to address issues related to them. During the financial year 2010-11, 53 ex-servicemen and dependents got employment in the State and Central Services through H. P. Ex-servicemen Employment Cell. A sum of Rs. 7.15 lakh is being paid as scholarship to the wards of Ex-Servicemen. Rs.7.41 lakh is being spent on Vocational Training Centers for daughters and wives of Ex-Servicemen and serving soldiers. The H. P. Ex-servicemen Corporation has disbursed a sum of Rs. 8.32 lakh as margin money loan to Ex-Servicemen. The Corporation has arranged employment to 2002 Ex-servicemen in the State.

35. There are about 4591 cooperative institutions functioning in the State with membership of 14.2 lakh. Margin money of Rs.20 crore for HIMFED and Rs. 2 crore for Lahaul Potato Growers Co-operative Marketing Society has been sanctioned by NCDC during the year 2010-11. The second phase of Integrated Co-operative Development Project has been sanctioned by

NCDC for the districts of Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Sirmour with block cost of Rs. 35.87 crore to strengthen cooperative movement in these districts. The State Government has extended Government guarantee of Rs. 300 crore for the period up to 2012 in favour of the H.P. State Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank Ltd. The Cooperative Bank in the State has issued 7410 Kisan Credit Cards to farmers and an amount of Rs.92.61 crore has been advanced to these card holders at the rate of 7% upto Rs.3 lakh and 9% upto Rs.10 lakh with 2% subsidy if repayment of loan is made regularly. The Co-operative Banks have started funding farmers under State Government sponsored ambitious projects like **‘Pt. Deen Dyal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna’** and **‘Doodh Ganga project’**.

36. The State Government is providing 3 Pulses, Salt, Refined oil and Sarson oil to all families on **subsidized rates** through the network of 4561 fair price shops in the State to save the common man from the pressure of rising prices. The Government has provided subsidy of Rs.110 crore on subsidized ration to the consumers last year. **‘Janata Mandis’** are being organized so that farmers get remunerative price for their farm produce and simultaneously the consumers could get fresh produce at reasonable price.

37. My Government introduced web-based e-Samadhan system in the year 2008 for bringing transparency and immediate redressal of public grievances. The complainant can enter his grievance on-line through this system and can monitor the process of its redressal. In the current year thousands of complaints have been dealt through this system. To facilitate the general public, the Government has established **‘Sugam Kendras’** in the offices of all the Deputy Commissioners. To facilitate the general public **‘Prashashn Janta Ke Dwar’** programme has been launched wherein Chief Minister and Ministers along-with senior officers are listening to the public grievances at field level meetings and ensuring their quick redressal. A

separate women's grievance redressal cell has been set up in every Department with a woman officer heading it. Up to January 2011, 13,282 complaints and 6671 demands were received through e-Samadhan out of which, 12,183 complaints i.e 91.72% and 4773 demands i.e 71.70% were disposed off by the concerned departments. My Government has also constituted the grievance redressal committees at State, District and Sub Division Level. To redress grievances, every department has constituted '**Shikayat Nivaran Prakoshth**' at District, Sub-Division, Tehsil and Block level and the respective heads of the offices of the departments have been made responsible for this task.

38. Himachal Pradesh has been blessed with vast hydropower potential and about 23,560 MW of hydel potential has been assessed for exploitation in the State of which only 6673 MW have been harnessed so far. The Government has adopted a multi pronged strategy for power development through State Sector, Central and Joint Sector and Private Sector. Till now, 77 projects of more than 5 MW capacity, with a total potential of 6266 MW have been allotted to the private sector. Government of India has conveyed sanction for development of Shimla and Hamirpur cities as 'Solar Cities' under the 'Development of Solar Cities Programme'. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources has conveyed sanction for setting up of State Level Energy Park at Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Nauni, Solan, and National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur.

39. To check overloading, Transport Department has made functional 9 weigh bridges at entry points to the State. 144 Driving Training Schools have been opened in public and private sector for providing opportunities to the youth of the State to undergo training in their Districts. The Transport Department and the offices of the Registering and Licensing Authorities have been computerized to provide better and time bound services

to the public through its dedicated software. In order to ensure public participation in road safety and provide public grievance redressal system, department has introduced on-line SMS with the help of Police so that complaints of drunken driving, overloading etc. can be conveyed by general public. In addition to other categories availing concessional travel, the Government has provided free traveling facility to Muslim Women in HRTC buses on days of Id and Bakr-Id on the analogy of Raksha Bandhan and Bhaiya Dooj. HRTC has been awarded Transport Minister's Trophy and cash award of Rs.1.50 lakh for lowest accident record for 2007-08, 2008-09 in the Hill category.

40. My Government has focused on promoting appropriate environment friendly and sustainable industrialization of the State. By the end of November, 2010, 460 medium and large scale units, 36932 small scale units were functioning with cumulative investment of Rs. 12648 crore and giving employment to 2.49 lakh persons. After the special package of incentives from January 2003 to March 2010, and thereafter with State Government's efforts, up to November, 2010, registration and approval have been accorded to 1014 medium and large scale units, 12954 small scale units and 403 expansion proposals of existing units with cumulative investment of Rs. 43286 crore and estimated employment to over 5 lakh persons. My Government has made earnest efforts to get special industrial package restored up to March 2013 by passing the resolution in Vidhan Sabha. The Government has been making strenuous efforts to have this package extended upto March, 2020.

41. My Government is very keen to promote tourism development in the State. State Government is encouraging adventure sports, religious tourism, rural tourism, eco tourism etc. The State received about 1.3 crore tourists in 2010 with an average growth rate of 16% to 17% over the

preceding year. The State also has its share of foreign tourists which was about 4.5 lakh last year.

42. My Government has introduced **‘Har Gaon Ki Kahani’** involving the local stake holders by publishing the stories, fables, tales and enchanting folklore to promote the destinations that are mentioned in these. The Asian Development Bank has approved financial assistance of about Rs.429 crore for tourism related infrastructure development in the State. We have established **‘Brand Himachal’** as an attractive tourist destination under the caption **‘Unforgettable Himachal’**. The State Tourism department has released two coffee table books namely; **‘Har Ghar Kuchh Kehta Hai’** and **‘Unforgettable Himachal’** for publicizing the State and attracting the tourists to visit this State. Efforts are being made to break the seasonal factor and tourism products have been diversified to attract the tourists round the year. Now Himachal is known as **‘A Destination for All Seasons and All Reasons’**.

43. Himachal Pradesh Housing & Urban Development Authority has constructed 14237 houses and flats and developed 4083 plots under various housing schemes at different places till date. Henceforth, HIMUDA will concentrate on its core function of developing housing to meet the requirements of the State in a balanced manner. There is an outlay of Rs.133 crore for the current financial year for construction of 25 houses, 395 flats, development of 431 plots and execution of deposit works of different departments. During 2010-11, HIMUDA has constructed 25 houses and 182 flats at various places and also developed 55 plots.

44. Department of Language, Art & Culture has been entrusted with the work of development and exploration of the potential of language, literature, and culture. A sum of Rs. 26.80 lakh has been given by way of

grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations for cultural activities. Special efforts are being made to repair historical temples and monuments of the State. The department has published several books during the year and a statue of Maharani Laxmi Bai has been installed at Rani Jhansi Park in Shimla. The Department is working on preservation of wall paintings in different parts of the State.

45. The State remained peaceful and law and order was under control during this year. Himachal Armed Police and I T B P continue to be deployed in Chamba district along J& K border on anti-militancy duties. Besides, round-the-clock vigil is being maintained by the security forces to avert any spill-over of terrorist activities in to our area from the trouble-torn State of J & K. The Community Policing Scheme introduced by the Himachal Pradesh Police continues to make progress with the involvement of local citizens in maintaining peace and harmony.

46. The Government of Himachal Pradesh in its endeavour to promote sports up to grass-root level, has taken in hand various schemes such as construction of play grounds and stadia, cash awards to outstanding sport persons and 3% reservation to outstanding sports persons in Government jobs. A State level **Women's Festival** was held at Dharmshala in September, 2010, a State level Sports tournament for physically challenged was held at Hamirpur and Himalayan Open Paragliding championship for men and women at Bir-Billing in November, 2010. State Sports Day in the memory of **Major Dhayan Chand**, was also organized at District and State level. **256 sports-persons** have been provided jobs under sports quota. **Under cash award scheme, Rs. 67 lakh** have been awarded to the **86 outstanding sports persons** who won medals in the **Commonwealth and Asian games- 2010** and other National events during last year and this year. State level tournament under **Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan** was held successfully at

Mandi in which 973 rural boys and girls below the age of 16 years participated in 10 sports disciplines. **Dr. Y.S. Parmar Memorial All India Volleyball Championship** was held at Rajgarh in district Sirmour from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

47. The Department of Youth Services & Sports has launched a number of schemes like Nodal Club Yojna, Youth Leadership Training Programme, Youth Festival, Youth Work Camps and Youth Day etc. During the current financial year 250 playfields are being constructed under SCSP at a cost of Rs. one lakh each. To provide international quality playing facilities to the players of the State, two Synthetic Athletic Tracks, three Volleyball Tera Flex Courts, four Howa Badminton Courts are under construction. Ten metre shooting range has been constructed at Indira Gandhi State Sports Complex, Shimla at a cost of Rs. 32 lakh.

48. Works such as restoration of water bodies, channelization of nallahs, storm water drainage, sewerage and widening of roads etc. are being undertaken in Hamirpur, Dharamsala and Mandi towns under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns with a project cost of Rs. 27 crore. To empower the urban poor, self-employment ventures are being encouraged under **Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rogzar Yojna** for which Rs. 2 lakh is being spent in the year 2010-11. Under the scheme of Environment Improvement of Urban Slums, Rs.294 lakh has been provided to the Urban Local Bodies for benefiting 3600 slum families by providing community facilities to improve the quality of their life.

49. Rural Development has been the top priority of the State Government. My Government is providing Housing Subsidy for construction of houses for BPL families and has enhanced the subsidy under '**Atal Awas Yojna**' from Rs. 38, 500 to Rs. 48, 500 for construction of new houses this

year. Under Indira Awas Yojna 5793 and under Atal Awas Yojna 4138 new housing units are being constructed for which Rs 28.10 crore and Rs. 20.07 crore respectively are being spent during the current financial year.

**50.** 44 new projects under Integrated Watershed Management Project with a total cost of Rs. 356.47 crore for the development of 2,37,650 hectare have been sanctioned during the current financial year. The State is endeavouring to achieve 100 percent open defecation free status in all the Gram Panchayats by the end of this financial year. State Government has provided Rs. 4.12 crore for various reward schemes linked with the Total Sanitation Scheme. The State's efforts are clearly reflected in the fact that 688 Gram Panchayats have been awarded '**Nirmal Gram Puraskar**' by the Government of India. During this financial year, funds to the tune of Rs. 391 crore have been spent till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 and 120 lakh mandays generated by providing employment to 3, 29,215 households under MNREGA.

**51.** My Government has given added priority to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions and powers have been delegated to them to accelerate the pace of development at the grassroots. 50% reservation to women in PRIs has been provided with a view to empower them. It is a matter of pride for all of us that after the recent successful PRIs elections, 57.46% of the elected posts have been won by women. A comprehensive plan for training of elected representatives and functionaries of PRIs has been prepared and training has started.

**52.** Norms for cost of construction of Panchayat Ghars have been enhanced from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3.40 lakh. During the last three financial years, funds for the construction of new Panchayat Ghars in 366 Gram Panchayats and repair of 730 Panchayat Ghars were provided @ Rs 3.40 lakh

and Rs 1 lakh per panchayat respectively. The rates of monthly remuneration of Panchayat Sahayaks have been increased from Rs 3120 to Rs 5910. Government has sanctioned 165 new posts of Panchayat Sahayaks. 1132 Panchayat Sahayaks have been appointed as Panchayat Secretaries during the last 3 years.

In Panchayat Samitis, 187 new posts of Junior Engineers have been filled on contract basis. 1069 Takniki Sahayaks have been appointed in the Gram Panchayats for providing technical guidance.

**53.** My Government has maintained cordial relations with its employees and their interests are being protected. The State Government has released two instalments of Rs. 10,000 each to regular employees on account of arrears of revised pay scale, two instalments of 10% each of the arrears of pension and leave encashment and DCRG to pensioners during March 2010 and November 2010. Two instalments of DA @ 8% from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010 and 10% from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010 have been released to the employees and pensioners. The wage rate of daily wagers has been enhanced from Rs. 110/- per day to Rs. 120/- per day from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010 and honorarium in respect of Part-time workers has been enhanced from Rs. 14.50 per hour to Rs. 16 per hour.

**54.** The Administrative Reforms Organization is coordinating review meetings of all departments under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister with a view to ensure that day-to-day working improves and departments function purposefully in accordance with the overall priorities of the Government. '**Efficiency in Administration**' meetings are being held quarterly at Secretariat level in all departments to review key indicators and focus on outcomes. My Government has launched an incentive scheme for those Government employees who set high standards in public service.

**55.** I have briefly narrated the achievements of my Government. In the last three years the present Government has tried to give new direction to development in the State. It has been the earnest endeavour of my Government not only to accelerate the pace of development, but also to ensure that such growth is inclusive. We have taken policy decisions to ensure socio-economic justice to the poor, the downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society. Ever since the present Government took over on December 30, 2007, the State has witnessed speedy all-round development, and steps have been taken to ensure that the common man benefits from its policies and programmes. It is with this view that Government has initiated several ambitious schemes which have been implemented in letter and spirit. **‘Sadak, Shiksha, Swasthaya’** have been accorded top priority by my Government and **‘Self Employment’, ‘Self dependence’** and **‘Self respect’** is the guiding motto of my Government to make Himachal Pradesh an **‘Ideal State’** and **‘Sabse Upar Himachal’** in the country.

**56.** With these words, I would like to conclude my speech. I am sure that all the Honorable Members of this House will rise above the party lines and participate in the deliberations during the Budget Session and come forward with their valuable suggestions which will be helpful in ensuring all-round progress of the State.

**Jai Hind, Jai Himachal**