

## **Budget Highlights**

- **Growth rate of 7.7% estimated in 2008-09 for Himachal Pradesh against the national average of 7.1 %.**
- **State's per capita income to increase from Rs. 44,803 to more than Rs. 50,000 in the next year.**
- **Average household income shall be more than Rs. 20,000 per month.**
- **Total Budget outlay for next year Rs. 13,075 crore.**
- **Annual Plan 2009-10 Rs. 2700 crore.**
- **Farmer friendly budget. Rs. 353 crore "Pandit Deen Dayal Kisan Bagwaan Samridhi Yojana" launched.**
- **Rs. 267 crore outlay for irrigation in next year.**
- **Insurance schemes for cash crops such as tomato, potato, apple and mango to be introduced.**
- **Organic farming and vermi compost will be high priority. 1.50 lakh vermi compost units to be set up.**
- **1.25 lakh additional soil health cards to be issued and total will be 2.25 lakh.**
- **Milk procurement rates raised by Rs. 4 per litre within one year.**

- **25 veterinary institutions upgraded and 19 new ones opened.**
- **Unemployed youth to be trained in fish farming, pearl culture and commercial trout breeding.**
- **Rural unemployed empowered to earn Rs. 11,000 per year under NREGA. Budget provisioning of more than Rs. 500 crore for this.**
- **“Grameen Vidya Upasak Scheme” reintroduced. Earlier eligible Grameen Vidya Upasaks to become contractual JBT teachers.**
- **Panchayat Sahayaks designated as Panchayat Secretaries, after completing eight years of service.**
  
- **Minimum Service fees for Gram Rozgar Sewaks to be Rs. 1500 per month and for Technical Sahayaks Rs. 2500 per month.**
- **Remuneration of Panchayat Chowkidars increased by 25% from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 p.m.**
- **Daily wage rate increased to Rs. 110. Daily wage rate for Home Guards increased from Rs. 150 to Rs. 170.**

- **9000 new houses to be constructed for rural poor and SC families under “Indira Awas Yojana” and “Atal Awas Yojana.” Provision also for repair of 900 old houses.**
- **Rs. 4000 crore financial aid agreement signed with Asian Development Bank for hydropower projects. Rs. 3600 crore to be received as grant.**
- **New competitive bidding for power projects - 24% to 56% free power to be received.**
- **Four CFL’s distributed free to all households under “Atal Bijli Bachat Yojana.” Total cost Rs. 80 crore.**
- **Plan outlay for roads raised by 58% from Rs. 304 crore to Rs. 480 crore.**
- **Plan support to HRTC of Rs. 43 crore, for purchase of more than 300 buses. Non-Plan support also raised to Rs. 77 crore. Total budget support of almost Rs. 120 crore.**
- **Liberal permits to be given for public transport services. Will increase self-employment opportunities and reduce losses of HRTC.**
- **Entry toll at borders for local residents reduced by 50%. Exemption for Gallantry Award winners.**

- **Rs. 182 crore provided for drinking water supply schemes.**
- **Three major rural drinking water projects for 1171 habitations in Bilaspur and Kangra districts – total cost Rs. 172 crore.**
- **Total 20,000 hand-pumps in the state within next year including 2500 new ones this year.**
- **Scheduled Caste Sub Plan increased last year from Rs. 231 crore to Rs. 594 crore. Further raised now to Rs. 668 crore for next year.**
- **Pensions increased by 65% from Rs. 200 to Rs. 330 per month.**
  
- **15,000 new families added to social security pension from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008. 2.52 lakh households now benefited.**
- **“Matri Shakti Bima Yojana” insurance benefits quadrupled within one year. Rs. one lakh now for accidental death and Rs. 50,000 for loss of one limb.**
- **Rs. 243 crore earmarked under Tribal Sub Plan.**
- **Union Govt. impressed upon to expedite Rohtang tunnel construction.**

- **Central University, NIFT, SAIL plant, BSF battalion, Disaster management battalion, Food Craft institute got sanctioned from Central Govt for Kangra.**
- **Medical college Tanda upgraded to AIIMS level and Rs. 125 crore got sanctioned from Union Government.**
- **Medical colleges in private sector being facilitated in Palampur, Solan, Hamirpur and Una.**
- **IIT and Medical College in Mandi got sanctioned from Central Government.**
  
- **Five Polytechnics got sanctioned for five districts of Kinnaur, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Kullu and Lahaul Spiti.**
- **New engineering college to be opened in Bilaspur.**
- **12 B.Sc. nursing colleges and 28 nursing schools being set up in public private partnership.**
- **Ten private universities to function in Himachal Pradesh.**
- **Himachal Pradesh to become education hub.**
- **Comprehensive health insurance scheme in all districts for below poverty line families.**
- **Recruitment of doctors and other health personnel through Rogi Kalyan Samitis.**

- **225 posts of doctors and 262 posts of nurses filled. 175 posts of Ayurvedic doctors and 300 posts of Ayurvedic Pharmacists being filled up.**
- **Tourism infrastructure projects of more than Rs. 350 crore posed to Asian Development Bank. Projects to be sanctioned on 90% grant.**
- **New Tourism sites to be developed, especially for eco-tourism.**
- **Home stay scheme to be given emphasis around popular tourist destinations of the state.**
- **Gaiety Theatre to become a vibrant cultural centre.**
- **Indian Institute of Hotel Management at Hamirpur and Food Craft Institute at Dharamshala started with Central Government assistance of Rs. 17 crore. 400 youth to be trained each year for employment in hospitality sector.**
- **Synthetic athletic tracks at Dharamshala and Hamirpur to be completed next year.**
- **Environment master plan to be completed next year. Government to tackle all emerging environmental issues.**
- **Forest Department to maximise forest plantation activities for its 6000 sq. km available land.**

- **Industrial infrastructure being improved.**
  - **Pensions of eligible ex-servicemen/widows increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 330 per month.**
  - **War Jagir raised by 122% from Rs. 900 to Rs. 2000.**
  - **Additional benefits of more than Rs. 2000 crore to state government employees and pensioners.**
  - **Promotion quota of Class-IV employees raised from 10% to 30%.**
  - **Tax rates reduced on CFL, unbranded soaps and ghee.**
  - **Road tax completely exempted for plying of buses on rural roads. To benefit both HRTC and private bus operators.**
  - **Bus fares reduced by 10%**
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