

## HIMACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS

### WORLD'S HIGHEST POLLING STATION

A small Himachal Pradesh village has got the distinction of the highest polling station in the world.

1. Tashigang is located at an altitude of 15,256 feet. Tashigang Polling Station falls in Buddhist- dominated Lahaul-Spiti and forms part of the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, the second largest constituency in India.
2. Tashigang is situated at about 29 km from the India China border and the polling station covers two villages— Tashigang and Gete. The polling station has 48 voters, of which 30 are men and 18 women. Even though Tashigang has all necessary facilities like power and water supply but lacks mobile connectivity and election officials will use a satellite phone during polls on May 19.
3. Initially, election officials had intended to set up the polling booth at Gete village but shifted it to Tashigang as the government school building there was not found safe. Earlier the tiny settlement of Hikkim in Himachal Pradesh positioned at an altitude of about 14,400 ft, was the highest polling station in the country.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNMENT DECLARED MONKEYS AS VERMIN

Monkey's are declared as vermin by the Himachal Pradesh government again, in 11 districts, 91 tehsils and sub-tehsils for the next one year. Previously, monkeys were declared as vermin in 38 tehsils and sub-tehsils of 10 districts in the year 2016 and which was further extended to next year on December 20, 2017.

#### Quick Facts

1. **Wildlife laws divide species into 'schedules' ranked from I to V.** Schedule I members are the best protected, in theory, with severe punishments meted out to those who hunt them. Wild boars, nilgai and rhesus monkeys are Schedule II and III members — also protected, but can be hunted under specific conditions. Crows and fruit bat fall in Schedule 5, the vermin category.
2. **Section 11(1)a of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA)** authorizes chief wildlife warden to permit hunting of any problem wild animal only if it cannot be captured, tranquilized or translocated.
3. **For wild animals in Schedule II, III or IV, chief wildlife warden or authorized officers can permit their hunting** in a specified area if they have become dangerous to humans or property (including standing crops on any land).
4. **Section 62 of Act empowers Centre to declare wild animals other than Schedule I & II to be vermin for specified area and period.**

### INDIA'S FIRST RAILWAY STATION INSIDE TUNNEL TO COME UP IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Station named, the Keylong station, to be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000 metres in Himachal Pradesh.

1. This will be built along the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border.
2. The station will be at a height of around 3,000 metres and will be inside a 27-km-long tunnel.
3. It will connect all important locations between Bilaspur and Leh like Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Koksar, Darcha, Upshi and Karu and other towns of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
4. After completion, the line will halve the duration taken to cover the distance between Delhi and Leh, from 40 hours to 20 hours.

### **PGI SATELLITE CENTRE IN UNA DISTRICT**

Union Health Minister laid the foundation stone of a PGI satellite centre at Malahat village, 3 km from Una city. A sum of Rs 500 crore will be spent on the project. The 300-bed hospital will have various specialist departments like internal medicine, surgery, gynecology, ENT, pediatrics, radiology and radio therapy besides dentistry. The health institution would be developed as a Regional Research Institute so as to provide a platform to study and research on the health issues which were more prevalent in the region. A mother and child healthcare centre estimated at Rs 20 crores and a level-3 trauma centre estimated at Rs 45 lakh had also been sanctioned for Una district.

#### **Quick Facts:**

1. The Union Health Minister initiated work on 14 new AIIMS in the country, including the Rs 1,352 crores AIIMS hospital at Bilaspur.
2. Super specialty wings were being set up at the IGMC, Shimla, and Tanda medical college. A cancer hospital was being developed at the IGMC Shimla.
3. Mother and child health care centres were being developed in each district.
4. Seven new trauma centers had been sanctioned by the Union government in Himachal Pradesh.

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE MOST OF SDG TARGETS BY 2022**

Himachal Pradesh has been ranked as Sustainable Development Goals and Policies the top performing State in the report - SDG India Index – Base Line Report, 2018, in making efforts to achieve SDGs in the entire Country. This report had ranked all the States and Union Territories of India, based on 62 priority indicators.

### **STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES “LOKTANTRE PRAHARI” SAMMAN RASHI OF RS.11,000**

During emergency, a large number of people in Himachal Pradesh were also arrested without assigning any reason. They were sent to jail and tortured. As a token of respect for such persons, an annual “Loktandre Prahari” Samman Rashi of Rs.11,000 to all such persons. The Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) was a controversial law passed by the Indian parliament in 1971 giving the administration of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Indian law enforcement agencies super powers - indefinite preventive detention of individuals, search and seizure of property without warrants.

### **INTRODUCTION OF COFFEE PLANTATION IN STATE**

To diversify agriculture, Coffee plants were distributed on trial basis for cultivation in 30 hectare land spread over 5 districts ie; Kangra, Mandi, Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts.

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH BECAME FIRST STATE TO LAUNCH SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER ‘112’ UNDER ERSS**

#### **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**

Himachal Pradesh became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number “112”, connecting police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state. Central government provided financial assistance of Rs. 4.71 crore and 13 vehicles for the implementation of the project in the state. (To implement the ERSS project across the country, the Central government allocated Rs. 321.69 crore under Nirbhaya fund.)

1. One ERC has been established in Shimla and 12 District Command Centres have been made available across the state.
2. The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women helpline (1090) services via single emergency number 112.
3. The service is part of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) under which ‘112 India’ mobile

- app is available and has been integrated with panic button of smartphones and ERSS state website.
4. Additionally, a 'SHOUT' feature has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app, exclusively for women, to seek immediate assistance.

### **PRESIDENT GAVE HIS ASSENT TO A BILL FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH**

#### **The Himachal Pradesh Early Childhood Care and Education Centers (Registration and Regulation) Bill 2017.**

1. It aims to bring the early childhood care and education centres in the state under government monitoring.
2. This will enable equal access, quality and commercialisation to childcare centres that are controlled by trusts, societies, religious groups or international funding agencies.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- [1] As per the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002, Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that "the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 6 years".
- [2] Under Article 200, the Governor can reserve a bill passed by the legislature for the consideration of the President.

### **AGREEMENT FOR RENUKAJI MULTIPURPOSE DAM PROJECT SIGNED BY 6 STATES: MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**

6 states include Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, in the presence of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari, signed an agreement for Renukaji Multipurpose Dam Project in New Delhi.

#### **Under Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project:**

1. 3 storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries – Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh of Upper Yamuna Basin. These include:
  - [1] Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand,
  - [2] Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and
  - [3] Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.
2. Seen as National Projects since 2008, 90% funding of the cost of irrigation & drinking water component will be provided by the Govt. of India as central assistance and the rest 10% would be borne by the beneficiary states.
3. The project will be executed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (HPPCL) and will generate 40 MW of power during peak flow.
4. This project will meet the drinking water needs of Delhi and the stored water of Renukaji Dam will be used by
  - [1] UP, Haryana & NCT of Delhi from Hathnikund Barrage,
  - [2] by NCT of Delhi from Wazirabad Barrage and
  - [3] by UP, Haryana and Rajasthan from Okhla Barrage.

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH CELEBRATES ITS 49TH FULL STATEHOOD DAY-25TH JANUARY**

On 25th January, 2019 Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 49th full Statehood Day at Kunihaar in Solan, in lieu of 18th state of India with the sterling presence of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. At this occasion,

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur encores for the speedy development along with an emphasis on backward classes and mass areas.

**Government announced:**

1. 1 lakh 20 thousand people will get gas connections under the Ujjawala Yojana in the next 5 months.
2. 5 lakh rupees health cover under the HIMCARE project having premium of Rs 1000.
3. 10% reservation to general economically weaker sections.

**1ST MEGA FOOD PARK OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd in Village Singhain, Una District of Himachal Pradesh. This is the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

**Quick Facts:**

1. This Mega Food Park has been set up in 52.40 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 107.34 crore.
2. The park have a common administrative building for office and other uses at Solan, Mandi, and Kangra.
3. Ministry of Food Processing Industries implemented Mega Food Park Scheme in the country, to give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY PASSED A BILL TO MAKE SANSKRIT AS THE SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

- A bill was passed in the Himachal Pradesh assembly to make Sanskrit the second official language of the state.

**Quick Facts:**

- Mahender Singh Thakur, the Irrigation and Public Health minister introduced the bill Himachal Pradesh Official Language Bill, 2019 (Amendment).
- The bill was introduced in the absence of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and was passed without discussion.
- With this, Himachal Pradesh became the second state to adopt Sanskrit as the second official language of the state after Uttarakhand.

**VIDHAN SABHA SESSION PASSED TWO BILLS**

- Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences Amendment Bill, 2019 to rename Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences as Atal Medical and Research University, Himachal Pradesh.
- Himachal Pradesh Bovine Breeding Bill, 2019 to promote indigenous species of cows in the state by setting up sperm stations and using frozen semen in artificial insemination.

**CENTRE, HIMACHAL PRADESH AND WORLD BANK SIGNED \$40 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT FOR SHIMLA WATER SUPPLY**

- A loan agreement of \$40 million (4 crore INR) was signed between the Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh and World Bank, for bringing clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of Greater Shimla area, who have been facing severe shortages of water and water-borne epidemics in the last few years.

**Quick Facts:**

- The reason behind this agreement is not meeting the current requirement of 56 million litres daily (MLD), as the capacity of Shimla's water supply infrastructure is 40 MLD.

### **HIM CARE ON THE LINES OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT IN STATE**

- State govt. announces “HIM CARE Yojna” for families not covered under “Ayushman Bharat” by providing health insurance cover up to Rs. 5 lakhs. Those families of persons, who work for more than 50 days under MNREGA during the year, will be provided health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakhs, without any insurance premium. This insurance cover shall be extended to all outsourced employees for a meagre sum of Re.1 per day.

### **AIIMS- BUDGET RS. 1351 CRORES AT BILASPUR**

- It is Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Surksha Yojna 750 beds, Trauma Centre and 1000 MBBS seats and 60 seats for B.Sc. Nursing.

### **GUDIA HELPLINE: 1515**

- To report crimes against woman
- 3 crime cells: Mandi, Shimla and Kangra

### **HOSHIYAR HELPLINE 1019 TO REPORT AGAINST MAFIAS OF FOREST, MINING ETC.**

### **ZERO BUDGETING NATIONAL FORMING PROJECT**

- Acharya Dev Vrat insisted that 5 scientists should adopt a village and should encourage farmers to go for natural farming

### **SHAKTI APP**

- Women safety developed by NIC, HP.
- Medicinal Plant Load Centre, under Ministry of Ayush, at Joginder Nagar Mandi

### **ALL INDIA 46TH POLICE SCIENCE CONGRESS AT SHIMLA**

- Organized by H.P Police Deptt and Bureau of Police Research and Development

### **INDIA SIGNS \$80 MILLION LOAN WITH ADB**

- To boost youth employability
- It will modernise Technical and vocational training institution in H.P
- It will improve the employment proceeds of nearly 65000 youth by nearly 2022

### **MAHILA SURAKSHA HANDBOOK**

- For women safety
- Brought by Shimla administration
- Heli- Ambulance service:
- It will be operated by Heli mission Switzerland with assistance of Lady Wellington Hospital, Manali

### **KANDA PATTAN SARKAGHAT WATER SUPPLY SCHEME:**

- Inaugurated by CM at Chalthara in Mandi (Sarkaghat)
- Development cost: 39.65 cr.
- Will benefit 30000 people

### **UNDER NON BIO DEGRADABLE GARBAGE CONTROL ACT, 1995 HP GOVT. ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL BAN USE OF PLASTIC AND THERMOCOL IN STATE.**

- H.P was 1st state in a country to ban use of Polythene bags in 2009

### **SCHEME**

- **SAUBHAGYA** :- 100% electrification of household by Dec 2018
- **UDAY**:- Power for all 24\*7

### **BANTONY CASTLE, SHIMLA, H.P**

- Summer palace of erstwhile rulers of Sirmaur.
- Now, the Prime property is under the name of the Department of language art and culture in the revenue record.
- H.P Govt. Sanctioned Rs 25 crore for the renovation of Bantony Castle.

### **69TH VAN MAHOTSAV WAS INAUGURATED BY GOVERNOR DEV VRAT AT GANEVAG, NEAR SHIMLA**

- The Campaign was organized forest Department and state Red cross society

### **H.P GOVT. RECEIVED NATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMANCE UNDER PRADHANMANTRI SURAKSHIT MATRITAV ABHIYAN IN WHICH ANTE-NATAL CHECK-UPS WERE CONDUCTED BY DOCTORS.**

### **FIRST PHASE OF 'HORN NOT OK' AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED WITH AN APP CALLED 'SHOR NAHIN' IN MANALI AND SHIMLA**

- It is an initiative of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology.

### **NAROPHA FESTIVAL**

- Ladakhi Dance in which 299 women dressed up in Traditional wedding attire danced together to make it to the list of Guinness world record. It is also known as Kumbh of Himalayas.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPROVED BY THE WORLD BANK**

- For Shimla water crisis of Rs. 929.89 crores.
- It will augment Gumma water source from Satluj river.
- Construction of storage dams on the Giri River.
- Installation of fifth units in 13 Bauris of Natural water bodies.

### **NAIK AASHISH KUMAR.(WINNER)**

- 1st Inter services Paragliding competition held at
- Bir Billing, Kangra
- 2nd Hawaldar Kuppuswamy

### **PRATAP CHAND SHARMA (PRATAPU)**

- Celebrated folk singer of Himachal, village Naleti, Dehra, Kangra
- Famous Songs:- "Thandi Thandi Hawa Jhuldi, Jhulde chila de Daalu, Jeena Kangra Da"

### **KINKIRI DEVI**

- environmentalist
- Memorial to be constructed at Simour, Madholi Village.
- She was invited by 1st lady Hilary Clinton to attend international women conference in Beijing and was given an honour to light the lamp.