



To

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Representation from the Citizens of Himachal Pradesh regarding Opportunities and Proposed Enhancements in the Union Budget 2026-27.

Respected Ma'am,

The importance of the Himalayas as the regulator of climate and development in South Asia, as the origin point of world's major rivers, the Indus, the Ganges, and the Tsangpo–Brahmaputra, that provide drinking water, life-sustaining irrigation and hydropower, safe harbour to 36 biodiversity hotspots, home for rich forests, and the foundation of nature tourism, agriculture, horticulture, mining and industry. More than 53 million people live in the Himalayas with another 450 million dependent people at their base.

Himalayan Institute for Transformative Actions (HITA) has been established by like-minded people for enhancing synergetic impacts within and throughout the Himalayan states. HITA does so by forging and maintaining rich collaborations, solution focussed discussions, outcome focussed actions, through cross-disciplinary teamwork for holistic solutions, leaving no one behind. It seeks to be an instrument to nudge development and economic initiatives, policy-programme instruments, and the larger development paradigms, through devolved, citizen owned and sustainable change processes.

On behalf of the concerned citizens and residents of Himachal Pradesh, we wish to express our appreciation for the visionary **Union Budget 2026-27**. The emphasis on sustainable development, "Viksit Bharat," and the strategic focus on the Himalayan states are commendable. As Himachal Pradesh stands at a pivotal juncture of economic transition, we humbly submit the following petition to align the budget's national initiatives with the specific ecological and socio-economic needs of our state.

1. Tourism & Connectivity: The "Mountain Trail" Initiative

While we enthusiastically welcome the development of ecologically sustainable mountain trails for trekking and hiking in districts such as **Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, and Kinnaur**, we propose the following refinements:

- **Carrying Capacity Management:** We emphasize that infrastructure must be "world-class" but "ecologically sensitive." Tourist inflows should be managed strictly within the environmental carrying capacity to prevent the degradation seen in other Himalayan hubs.





- **High-Value Niche Tourism:** We urge the Ministry to support **Astro-Tourism** in high-altitude regions like Spiti and the introduction of **Scenic Mountain Trains** that emphasize luxury and low-impact travel.
- **Skilling for Local Youth:** To ensure the "tourist value chain" benefits residents, we request dedicated funding for upskilling 10,000 local youth as certified eco-guides and hospitality professionals, ensuring tourism serves as a primary employment engine without compromising local ecology.

2. Agriculture and Rural Development: Empowering Nari Shakti

The introduction of the **She-Mart (Self Help Entrepreneur)** scheme is a game-changer for our agrarian economy. To maximize its impact in Himachal, we propose:

- **Himachal Haat Complexes:** Establishing Delhi Haat-style complexes in high-footfall areas (e.g., Manali, Shimla, Dharamshala) where women-led SHGs can sell local produce and traditional handicrafts.
- **Women-Managed 'Humsafar' Amenities:** Under the NHAI 'Humsafar' policy, we propose that the segments of **NH-5, NH-21A, NH-88, and NH-20** feature all-women run toll plazas and wayside amenities. These should include food plazas, kiosks, and clean toilets, ensuring safety and entrepreneurship for rural women.

3. Pharmaceuticals & Biopharma: Leading the Innovation Shift

With the **Biopharma SHAKTI Strategy (₹10,000 crore outlay)**, Himachal Pradesh is ready to transition from generic manufacturing to high-value biologics. We request:

- **NIPER Upgradation:** A direct allocation for the **NIPER in Himachal** to build advanced research labs.
- **Bulk Drug Park (Una):** Continued 90% central funding to ensure this ₹10,000 crore investment hub creates the projected 20,000 jobs.
- **Ayush & Wellness:** We propose Himachal as a prime location for one of the five proposed **Regional Medical Hubs**, leveraging our biodiversity for Medicinal Plant Cultivation (Ashwagandha, Jatamansi) and training 1.5 lakh caregivers in Yoga and Ayurveda.

4. Expanding the Buddhist Circuit: From Purvodaya to "Buddhodaya"

The budget currently focuses on Buddhist circuits in the Northeast under the **Purvodaya** initiative. However, Himachal Pradesh (along with Ladakh and Uttarakhand) is a "civilizational confluence" of the Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions.

- **Inclusive Proposal:** We formally propose expanding the scheme's name to **"Buddhodaya"** and including iconic Himalayan sites to recognize their historical contribution to the spread of Buddhism.



5. Transitioning to the "Orange Economy"

We applaud the focus on the **Orange Economy** (creative industries). For Himachal, this presents a unique "leapfrog" opportunity:

- **AVGC Creator Labs:** We request the establishment of **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) labs** in HP schools to tap into the 2-million-job potential by 2030.
- **Digital Heritage:** Using AR/VR for historical tours (e.g., "Digital Himalayan Heritage") to modernize our cultural tourism. Himachal can learn from the experiments of "[RED° TOKYO TOWER](#)" and AR historical tours in Shibuya and "[Godzilla-themed outdoor AR attractions](#)".
- **Geriatric Care & Retirement Townships:** We propose developing world-class, pollution-free retirement townships and geriatric care facilities, positioning Himachal as the "Healing Capital" of India.

We believe that with these specific inclusions, the Union Budget 2026-27 will not only foster growth but will also preserve the pristine "Devbhumi" for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Ahal
Manab Chakraborty

CC:

- a) Honourable Sukvinder Sukku, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh
- b) All Members of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh