

# **India Today State of the States survey confers the Best State Award for 2017 upon Himachal Pradesh in Education, Infrastructure and overall Development.**

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 presented the Best State Award in the Big States category in education, infrastructure and overall development to Himachal Pradesh.

The Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh received the award at India Today State of the States Conclave-2017 organized by the India Today Group at New Delhi.

The Chief Minister, in his address on “The politics of development: My turn around story” spoke about the developmental journey of Himachal since its formation.

He credited leaders like former Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and first Chief Minister of the State Dr Y.S Parmar for laying strong foundations for the emergence of Himachal as a developed state.

In past also, efforts of the state have been lauded at National level and it won many awards too, he added.

Virbhadra Singh said the present Congress government in Himachal has concentrated on equitable and inclusive development.

He said the poor, downtrodden, weaker and vulnerable sections have been given special attention.

The Chief Minister claimed that Himachal has achieved spectacular progress in areas of health, education and equitable development of infrastructure with special focus on the poor and under privileged.

Though the lack of adequate staff at health facilities and degrading quality of education imparted at the government schools have been a critical issue, the Chief Minister claimed the State has adequate educational and health institutions. Roads are vital lifelines of connectivity to the remotest parts of the State.

He lauded the India Today Group for the efforts and encouraging states by appreciating the good work done by them.

Health Minister Kaul Singh Thakur, Industries Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, MLA Asha Kumari and Chief Secretary V C Pharka were also present on the occasion.