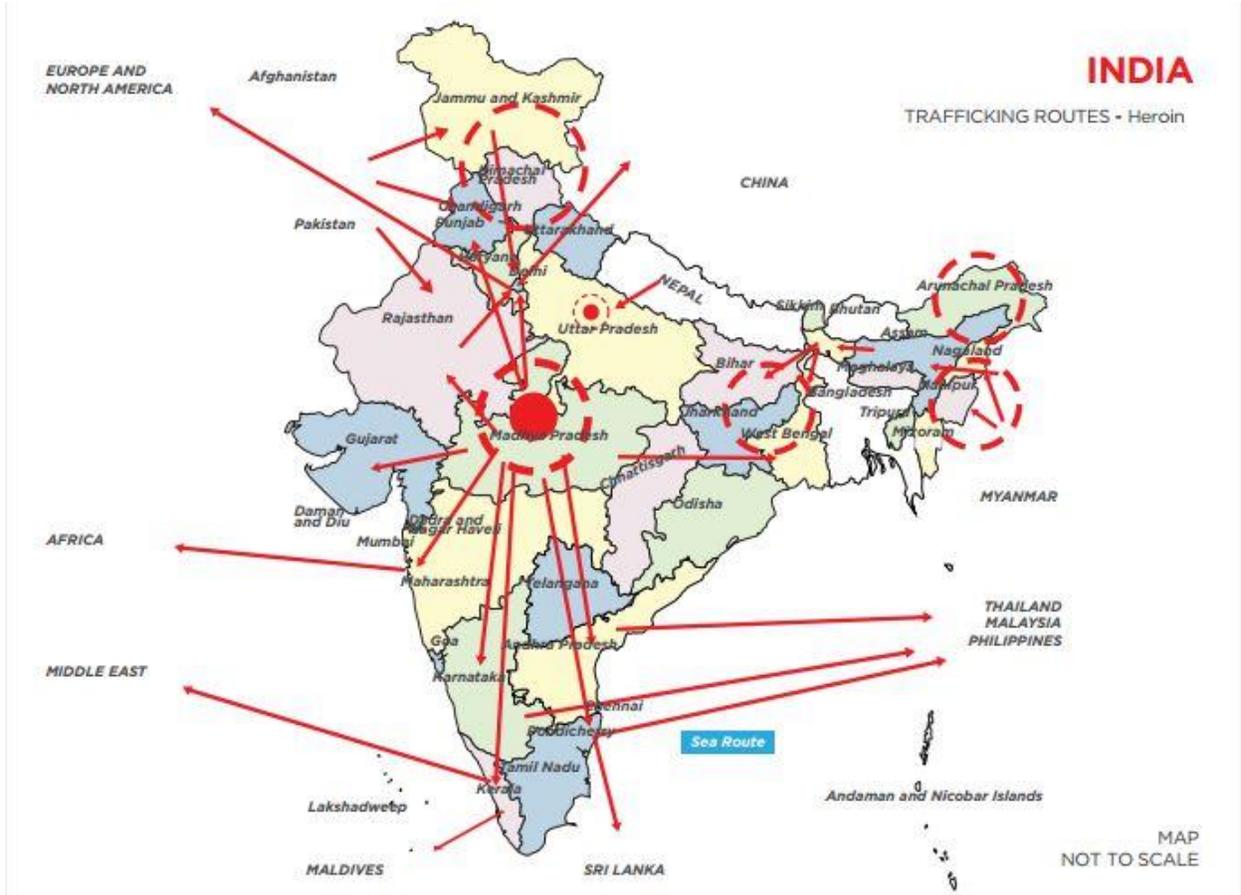
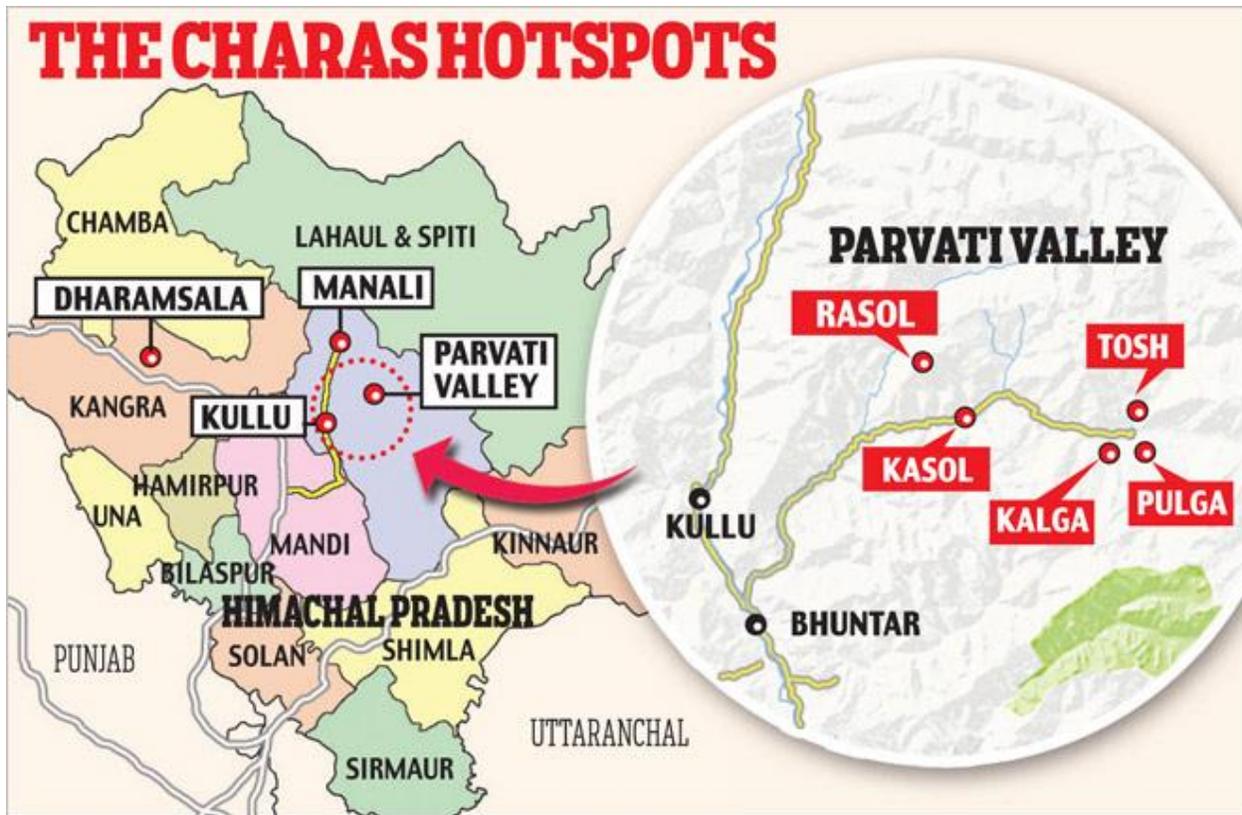


# Dark Side of Devbhoomi– Himachal Pradesh





- Himachal Pradesh's drug menace: CM Thakur admits 27 per cent youths are addicted.
- According to an estimate cited by the newspaper, “about 70 per cent of the foreigners visiting the state are from Israel. Places such as **Dharamkot village (near Dharamsala), Old Manali, Vashishth, Kasol and Tosh Village** have nearly half of their population of Israeli nationality, a source said.
- “The peaceful Kangra and Kullu valleys have become a safe haven for lakhs of Jews who migrate here for many reasons – including karmic cleansing, and an uninterrupted feast of drugs, adventure and sex,” adds The Mail.
- Sources told the newspaper that the Israeli backpackers live in groups and rarely mix with others. Others simply stay away from them.
- The rave-mad region has also become home to an Israeli mafia, which operates alongside Russian and Italian mafias, though the Daily Mail reports that there are no reports of a mafia rivalry in Himachal Pradesh, as the Israelis maintain a dominant position.

- An Italian man Orazi was arrested from a house in Nerang forest, where he had been staying for several years in direct violation of many legal norms. According to the police, his visa had expired a year before his arrest.
- The house was stacked with large quantities of *ganja* (marijuana). Orazi, in every respect, looked like a native of Malana – with a long beard and wearing the traditional attire of the area.
- For the 12-13 years that Orazi stayed in Malana, he was involved in the production and trade of cannabis with the active connivance of the village people, who find easy money in the production of illicit drugs. treats cannabis as ‘*shiv ji ki buti*’ and does not see cannabis production as something wrong.

### **Malana Cream: An International Hit**

- Malana is the producer of the second best quality of hash in the world
- Brands like Malana cream, Malana gold, Malana biscuits and AK-47 are international brands available for sale in Europe and other International destinations ONLY. The 155 Kg hashish seizure from the foreign kingpin and his Indian counterpart is testimony to this fact.

### **Kasol - India's Drug Capital**

- Skunk, Red Hair, Early Girl, White Widow, flower power, Morning California etc. common concoctions of drugs .
- Nearly 5,00,000 international tourists visit Himachal Pradesh each year and they move about in different parts of the state. Most popular destinations are Shimla, Kullu, Manali, and Dharamshala.
- Most of the cannabis and poppy cultivation is done in the remote villages of Kullu, Chuhar valley of Mandi and the upper reaches of Chamba, where many of the village folk have simply abandoned cultivation of other crops.
- “Every year the area under cannabis cultivation has been increasing, thanks to the patronage by foreigners,” says Padam Chand, Kullu District police chief. “One set of foreigner brings in hybrid cannabis seeds, another set who resides here give it out for

cultivation and monitors it through the local folks. The produce is then smuggled out by villagers to Delhi, Mumbai and Goa to be shipped abroad. The new inhabitants have even rechristened the valley habitats. For instance, a hidden valley in Malana (about 15 Km from here), is called Magic Valley, and another neighbouring valley is called the Waichin Valley.”

- 40 per cent youth in the state are involved in drug abuse according to a study by the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC), Shimla
- Around 400 villages in the state are affected with illegal cultivation of cannabis.

