



सत्यमेव जयते

ADDRESS

BY

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HON'BLE GOVERNOR

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

IN

THE ELEVENTH SESSION

OF

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ON

6th MARCH 2017

ITANAGAR

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable leader of the House

Honourable Members of Legislative Assembly

1. It gives me great pleasure to address this distinguished gathering of legislators in the Budget Session 2017. At the outset, I would like to extend my warm greetings to all of you for having completed three decades of statehood. During the course of the last thirty years, the state has seen much economic development and progress but much still remains to be done. This is an opportune occasion for this august house to reflect on the achievements of the year gone by and deliberate on the challenges, which lie ahead.
2. This is an occasion to pay rich tributes to all those brave young men and women who dreamt of a state of their own and realized their dreams 31 years ago. Today, Arunachal Pradesh, flanked on three sides by a long international border is the vanguard of hope and nationalism, which suffuses the hearts of every Indian citizen.

3. I am happy to note that my government has embarked on the journey of development with the mantra of 'Team Arunachal', reaching out to all citizens who truly are the stakeholders in development of the state. The process of pre budget consultations has been widened to reach out to all citizens of the state who have given constructive suggestions and inputs.

4. Under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, the Government of India has reinvigorated the policy orientation towards the North-East. For far too long, this region has been deprived of the fruits of equal economic development as other States, primarily on account of poor road, rail and air connectivity. It is heartening to see that there is a palpable change in the support being extended from the Union government to catalyse growth in this strategically situated state of Arunachal Pradesh.

5. My government had assumed office in the backdrop of a difficult fiscal situation created by profligate spending and had inherited considerable liabilities of the previous financial year. The members may recall that the state had to resort to access to the ways and means facility extended by RBI in the month of April last year. Under such circumstances, it was indeed a challenge to expand the scope of public spending to the meet the aspirations of the people, while maintaining fiscal discipline and trying to augment the resource base.
6. Fortunately, the Central government has been generous with resource transfers under the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance commission and buoyancy in tax collections. This has helped us address some of the difficulties faced by the state. However, we must take concrete measures to expand our own resource base and would gradually need to rationalize Excise Duty rates and monetize the land. I am sure the members of this august house will play a constructive role in building public opinion in this direction.

7. In spite of the fiscal challenges, my government has managed to maintain a tight financial discipline this year and maintained a healthy cash balance and even gone ahead and implemented the recommendations of the 7th Central pay Commission.

8. My Government shall focus on specific policy measures, which would stimulate exclusive economic growth and development and also lay the foundations of a knowledge led society. While the ambit of government as a welfare state has expanded considerably over the years, modern governments act as catalysts of economic change and empowerment.

The overall priority for the development of the State is on three 'Es', i.e. Education, Electricity and Employment. Special emphasis will be on higher education with skill abilities, harnessing the hydropower potential of the State and empowerment of the youth and women through skill development and employment.

The priority of my government will be on the following themes.

- a) Usher in long term governance reforms
- b) To develop Arunachal Pradesh as the Organic Hub and Fruit bowl of India;
- c) To position Arunachal Pradesh as the centre for wellness, Spiritual and Adventure Tourism;
- d) To create policies and institutions which encourage entrepreneurship, Employment generation and Skill Development;
- e) Quality access to all for basic social services of health and education;
- f) Planned investment in Infrastructure like road, air and rail connectivity, power and water supply.
- g) Reinvigorate stalled hydropower projects, which hold the biggest economic resource for the state.
- h) Higher education in conventional degree courses (BA, B.Sc. B.Com) will have added with skill knowledge, in the final year to make our graduates employable or entrepreneurs.
- i) Encourage cashless transactions to curtail corruption.

9. The winds of change are blowing across the country and the whole structure of government functioning has been dramatically altered in the last few years. Arunachal Pradesh cannot afford to be left behind. Citizens expect transparency in government functioning and greater accountability in public spending. One of the biggest challenges before my government is the task of reforming the governance structures itself. My government has demonstrated firm resolve by ushering in a series of governance reforms by leveraging technology in the last few months. Leaders must always lead by example and transformational change always requires change of mindset from the very top. I place on record my deep appreciation, as the state is perhaps one of the first states in the country to adopt the E-Cabinet. The government has shown its resolve in no uncertain terms on its commitment by undertaking rigorous training programs for implementation of the E- Office. I am sure that within this year, at least the functioning of the Secretariat will become paperless and this will be a major change for infusing transparency and eliminating corruption. My government is determined to root out the scourge of corruption and will deal it with a firm iron hand. Lokayukta will be appointed as early as possible.

10. My Government has been firm in dealing with law and order problems, and has demonstrated a policy of zero tolerance against criminals and lawbreakers. I am very happy to note that the culture of bandhs and disruptions, which vitiated the work environment over the last few years, is now a matter of the past and the work culture and ethics of governance have taken precedence and a professional work culture is slowly setting in.

11. Transparency, Efficiency and Accountability are the cornerstones of my government's philosophy. I must mention here that Shri Pema Khandu's progressive vision coupled with a team-oriented spirit will pave the way for transformational change in the state. The decision of the Government to have recruitments of even group B and C posts through the APPSC is commendable and path breaking. Merit and merit alone must be the criteria for all recruitment. The state is poised at an inflexion point of history and I urge each and every hon'ble member to seize this opportunity and work to strengthen the hands of government in larger public interest.

12. The fruits of development must percolate equitably to all parts of the state. Arunachal Pradesh represents a beautiful melting pot of multifarious tribes who have co-existed in harmony over centuries. These harmonious traditions must be nurtured and strengthened. It is this unity in diversity, which personifies the spirit of Arunachal Pradesh and is truly an embodiment of the syncretic culture of India.

13. One of the key impediments which has hindered economic growth in the state is the absence of robust connectivity. This has a direct impact on inflow of private investments as well as movement of tourists. The Central government has recently announced highway projects of over Rs 50,000 crore to be constructed over the next three years. The Trans Arunachal Highway has made steady progress and some niggling problems of land acquisition have also been overcome. A blueprint of Frontier Highway and an East-West Industrial Corridor and rail corridor has been prepared which is being discussed with the Central government for funding. Rural road connectivity has also seen considerable progress and now remote settlements are reasonably connected.

14. It is indeed high time that our State have an airport of its own in the State capital and the limited chopper service to Guwahati too becomes dysfunctional during the monsoons. We need to expedite the finalization of the location of our airport and the Central Government is eager to commence work immediately. However, in public projects of national importance we must not allow petty interest on land compensation to stall works. We owe it to our future generations to create a world-class facility at the state capital, which would allow easy movement, not only of people but perishable horticultural produce. In the interim, my government is determined to operationalize the Advanced Landing grounds, which have been constructed by defence authorities for civilian use. It is heartening that the civilian airport at Tezu shall be made functional this year.

15. It was heartening that recently, the State participated in the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit which saw a rush of interest amongst corporate investors, to invest and partner the State; The state was effectively able to showcase its inherent strengths, especially in horticulture, agriculture and tourism. Proactive measures such as these will signal to the world that the state is now open for investments and partnerships.

16. My government is working on investment policies and frameworks, which will help attract private investment flows into the state and create jobs and capacities for our educated youth. This will require a fresh look at the restrictive land regulations and ease the durations of land leasing frameworks, while protecting the interests of the tribal population in the ownership of land. The old “Philosophy of NEFA” must now be rewritten and “Arunachal Rising” is the apt mission mode statement of the state.
17. Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state of northeast in terms of area and the true potential of arable land needs to be unlocked. It is indeed a matter of concern that only a small percentage of our land is under cultivation of which even a smaller percentage is irrigated. The major crops include paddy, wheat, oilseed, turmeric, potato and ginger. Progressive farmers have taken to plantation crops like tea and rubber, while some have innovated in growing economically remunerative crops like large cardamom.

Area expansion and enhancing the reach of irrigation will increase productivity and production of food crops. Our goal should be aligned towards achieving food sufficiency by 2020.

- a. With such varied agro climatic zone, area expansion for off-season vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, brinjal, pumpkin etc will fetch higher price for the farmers. With only 4000 Ha under vegetable cultivation, the current production is only 33000 MT, while the potential is far greater.
- b. If we look at horticulture, 3.06 lakh MT of fruits are produced from our state each year and the area under fruit cultivation is only 0.66 lakh Ha. The major horticultural produce of the state includes Oranges, Kiwi, banana, pineapple and Apple. My government shall be taking concrete measures to scale up the production levels, invest in research and development, provide forward and backward linkages to emerge as the fruit bowl of India.

- c. My Government will encourage Co-operative Agriculture Societies for marketing of the produce and thereby eliminating the middlemen.
 - d. My government has signed an MOU with the National Dairy Development board, which pioneered the AMUL cooperative revolution for milk production in Gujarat. Through this partnership, my government shall take concrete measures to usher in the White revolution in the State and provide productive employment opportunities to dairy farmers in the state.
18. With a literacy rate of only 66.95%, the State is staring at huge challenge of providing quality education for the children and youth. This may perhaps require a fresh and radical approach and some bold measures in recruitment of teachers and in evaluating the teaching outcomes. With 3317 schools and 14381 teachers for a student strength of 257445, the teacher pupil ratio seems impressive. However, there is a clearly skewed distribution of resources- teachers and infrastructure. There are schools in some districts of the state, which have teachers

far in excess of norms, while in some other areas there are no teachers. The problem is further aggravated by the fact that some of the teachers are ill equipped and semi trained. My government will remain steadfast in improving the quality of education and will not allow any political consideration to interfere in the policy of recruitment or deployment of teachers. School education will receive a high policy priority and innovative solutions for teaching tools, leveraging on technology options will be explored.

19. Apart from this, the government will focus on investing in institutions of higher learning with a balanced regional spread so that students of all parts of the state are able to receive quality higher education. The focus on science education and commerce must be enhanced, even if we have to get quality teachers from outside the state.

20. A related challenge is that of right skilling our youth to make them employable. Unemployment, today, is one of the biggest challenge the state faces. Youth by their very nature are restive and aspirational. Having invested long years in acquiring a college degree, they naturally yearn for

avenues of gainful employment. Our education system, each year, churns out several youth equipped with degrees but without skills which guarantee jobs in the job market. This is an area where our government shall take corrective measures. Investment in developing institutions of skill development and in creating an eco-system, which nurtures private enterprise, will be one of the highest priorities of my government.

21. We will try for tie up and have MoU with other Universities from other parts of the country and have exchange of teachers to strengthen faculties. Such initiative and step will not only sustain our endeavour towards better higher education but also reinforce emotional and national integration. A good beginning has been done by inviting the representatives of educational institutes during the 31st Statehood Day celebration of Arunahal Pradesh as State Guests on my initiative. Following educationists attended the programme.

1. Dr. Mridul Hazarika, Vice Chancellor, Guahati University,
Guwahati
2. Dr. M.S. Moodithaya, Registrar, NITTE -Health Science
and Medical University, Mangalore
3. Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, SNDT
Women's University, Mumbai
4. Birg (Dr) Somnath Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim
Manipal University, Rangpo, Sikkim.
5. Shri Vivek M. Alva, Managing Trustee, Alva's Education
Foundation, Moodubidri,

We will also involve organizations working for and having concern for strategic Border State like Indian National Fellowship Centre (INFC), Mumbai. INFC representative were also invited for the Statehood Day.

22. The state has 811 health institutions with approximately 2000 beds in the state but there are only 519 allopathy doctors, and in some parts of the state there is an acute shortage of allopathy doctors and specialists. As per

National standards, the number of ICU beds of the total available beds should ideally be in the range of 20% of total bed strength. In our State, atleast 5-10% of the bed strength could be upgraded to ICU beds. Assuring health security for the poor people of the state will be a high priority for my government. This will require investments for strengthening district hospitals and upgrading some of them into regional hospitals with state of the art facility for diagnosis and treatment of even critical ailments that can obviate the need for patients to travel to hospitals outside the State.

23. The new block in the Tomo Riba hospital at Naharlagun has been made operational last year. This year, my government will be expanding this hospital to a 500-bed hospital. For the first time, Arunachal Pradesh will also get its own medical college and the teaching faculty for the hospital will be recruited this year to start the next academic session.

24. The Chief Minister's Universal Health insurance Scheme has been a unique model of universal health coverage for all citizens of the state, through linkages with empanelled hospitals upto a ceiling of Rs 2 lakh, which was enhanced to Rs 3 Lakhs. My government will come out with a restructured health insurance scheme, which will enhance the level of coverage and truly achieve the objective of cashless treatment, which it was launched for.

25. The officially recorded population of the physically challenged people in the state is about 27000. My government is sensitive to their need to provide adequate social security cover to the physically challenged. Equally, those poor people who are old and infirm, or those widows who have no means to live a dignified life, our government will be taking specific policy measures. We are committed to the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi of **Sarvodaya**- the

development of all , through **Antodaya**- development of the weakest section of society.

26. The soul of Arunachal lies in the villages and it is the tribal villager who is the living embodiment of age-old tradition and also harbinger of hope for the future. It is crucial that our villages must be provided with infrastructure facilities, which make rural life vibrant. My government will be taking concrete measures for rural transformations through planned investments in rural infrastructure and also by empowering the three-tiered local bodies of self-governance. I would like to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who said

“I have not pictured a poverty-stricken India containing ignorant millions. I have pictured to myself an India continually progressing along the lines best suited to her genius. I do not, however, picture it as a third-class or even a first-class copy of the dying civilization of the West.

If my dream is fulfilled, and every one of the seven

lakhs of villages becomes a well-living republic in which there are no illiterates, in which no one is idle for want of work, in which everyone is usefully occupied and has nourishing food, well-ventilated dwellings, and sufficient Khadi for covering the body, and in which all the villagers know and observe the laws of hygiene and sanitation such a State must have varied and increasing needs, which it must supply unless it would stagnate."

27. The basic necessities of common man: **drinking water, affordable housing as well as co-operative Housing societies and reliable power supply** must be addressed. In Arunachal Pradesh, a little over two fifth of households are having piped drinking water facility within the premises and a similar number of households have sanitation facilities with the house. Honourable Prime

Minister has given a clarion call to the whole nation to become open defecation free by the 2019, which will mark the 150th birth anniversary of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Our government will take decisive measures to ensure that we achieve this target well in time. My government shall also be making investments for augmenting piped potable water supplies in rural areas.

28. Another focus area of my Government will be gender equality and women empowerment. While the principle of gender equity in the workplace is generally accepted, discriminatory practices persist in many places. It is important to create an open and friendly atmosphere with a holistic view involving all section of the society to eliminate the gender biases particularly those embedded in our traditions and culture. This, in turn will assist in women empowerment. Restoring the rightful and dignified status of mothers, sisters and daughters, women empowerment endeavour will provide a solid foundation to nurture the

inner strength, creativity and self-esteem of women from all walks of life. Such initiative will help women to go out into the world and face any challenge with skills, confidence and grace. They will become agents of peace and positive social change for themselves, their families, other women and their society. **In this direction, working women hostels and crèche for their babies will be worked out.**

29. My Government will with strong political will rehabilitate all the members of Puroik community and make them equal to any other citizens of our country. After studying the both High Power Committee reports regarding the Puroik, we will see that autonomous Puroik Welfare Board is constituted. The agony and physical and mental suffering, the Puroiks have gone through earlier as a bonded labours should open our heart and mind for their welfare and equity in life.

30. It is indeed sad that Arunachal Pradesh has one of the highest numbers of un-electrified villages in the country. Remoteness of geography and difficulty of access makes it difficult to provide grid-based supplies in remote rural areas. My government will be ensuring that within this year we are able to cover 100% of villages for electrification under the DeenDayalUpadhyay Gram JyotiYojana and thereafter embark upon a 100% household electrification plan. The strategy of our government will be based on a mix of solar, micro hydel and decentralized grid solutions to ensure 100% coverage.

31. The rivers of Arunachal have so much potential that they could light up the whole of India. Yet, our hydropower potential has remained untapped so far. This year, the Kameng hydropower project and the Pare hydropower projects will start producing electricity and this will inspire the confidence of the people. I am confident that our government along with the Union government and the government of Assam will find a solution to restart the work on the stalled 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydro-electric

project, which will be the biggest such project in India. At the same time, my government will be giving a fresh look to the hydro power policy and identify key projects which can be given a fresh push through innovative institutional and financing mechanisms. The possibilities of revenue generation through these projects are so immense that Arunachal Pradesh will become a financially self-reliant state. At the same time, a concerted thrust on small, mini and micro hydel units will be given which have much smaller gestation period and give immediate relief to the surrounding areas.

32. The streams of development undoubtedly will grow into rivers of change in the coming years. But in our quest for development we must not forget the inextricable link of the tribal way of life with the forests. In pursuing a path of development we must not lose sight of the fact that the state is special amongst all other states because of its rich biodiversity, because of the forests, lakes and rivers. The centuries old tribal traditions, which considered forest as sacred, must not be allowed to die. It is the forests, which

have sustained life and nurtured the people for ages. All the tribal traditions, culture and customs are woven around the forests. The pursuit of growth must follow a sustainable path and our government shall strive to ensure that whenever there is a tree cut for development, a hundred are planted in return.

33. Members of this august house, you have a great responsibility in preserving the unique tribal traditions, which have been a way of life. Our government will be taking measures which will preserve and document oral cultural traditions and customary laws of each tribe, which have been passed on from generation to generation. I would like to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi who said ***“I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any”***.

34. To conclude, I would like to urge all the Hon'ble Members that it is you who will have to show the right path, lead by example and be an inspiration for thousands of youth of this state. The nation has a lot of expectations from this government led by a young and modern Chief minister. The youth of the state have huge expectations from the members of this House and from the government. Politics must be fought on the electoral battleground, but must never be allowed to come in the path of development and progress.

35. I am reminded of a famous quote by Ramakrishna Ji and I quote:

“The fabled musk deer searches the world over for the source of the scent which comes from itself.”

36. Let us remember our dynamic Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's goal 'Sabka Saath, SabkaVikas'

Each one of us must play a constructive role in taking the State forward by shunning narrow and selfish motives and rise to the occasion to propel the State to greater heights following the mantra of “Arunachal Rising” and “TEAM ARUNACHAL” which are a purveyor of hope and bonding.

Jai Hind. Jai Arunachal.