



8th Governing Council Meeting of NITI AAYOG,

New Delhi, 27th May, 2023

**Address of Shri Pema Khandu,
Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers,

My Colleagues, Hon'ble Chief Ministers,

Hon'ble Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog,

Senior Officers from Government of India and State Governments,

Introductory Remarks

1. At the outset, I extend warm greetings from the people Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Sir, my frontier Himalayan State - land of the rising sun, mighty rivers, and pristine forests - which was known for its extreme remoteness and difficult access, has witnessed transformative development and is seen today as the most improved small State in infrastructure.
3. And, for this, the people of Arunachal Pradesh are indebted to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. But for his continuous guidance and generous support, we would not have achieved the unprecedented economic growth and infrastructure development in the State.
4. With the visible improvement in ease of living in the last 8 years, we are now able to connect to youthful aspirations and provide livelihood opportunities, thanks to the flagship priority schemes aimed at economic growth, job creation



and inclusive human development under Hon'ble Prime Minister's visionary leadership.

5. I consider it a privilege that we are part of 'Team India' at an opportune moment, when we as a nation have embarked upon 'Amrit Kaal.'
6. Vikasit Bharat, presented as a visionary goal of Hon'ble PM for the Amrit Kaal, has become an aspiration of all our citizens. What we do during this period will be remembered for generations to come and I am happy to note that it is our citizens, especially the youth, who are now leading the movement. They are walking in step, and sometimes ahead of governments, political parties, and civil society organizations. There is realization that not just by demanding rights but by fulfilling our fundamental duties we will drive growth with sustainability, while preserving our rich and ancient cultural traditions.
7. Sir, Team Arunachal is looking forward to usher in a new dawn of **Vikasit Bharat by 2047** by contributing with all its might.
8. Here, I would like to suggest that while envisaging policy frameworks and public initiatives for Vikasit Bharat, we may consider the objective of higher 'happiness' for all citizens. The array of talent, that we are privileged to have in this country, gets the opportunity to shine in all walks of life when development is aimed at increasing 'happiness.' Along with the sustainable development goals, perhaps NITI Aayog could formulate national indicators for 'happiness and wellbeing' which account for progress achieved rather than just targets.
9. Sir, as a measure of commitment towards achieving the goal of 'Vikasit Bharat' and partnering in advocating a holistic approach to development, Government of Arunachal Pradesh is planning to setup a State Institute for Transformation and Innovation.



10. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has adopted Six Vision Pillars that are aligned with the Union Government's Seven 'Saptarishi' Priorities for guiding us through the Amrit Kaal.
11. It is a matter of great personal satisfaction for me that the aligned path chosen by us is meant to support the aspirations of our people, especially the youth towards a developed 'Arunachal@2047', when we celebrate 100 years of our Independence and 75 years of the naming of Arunachal Pradesh. Through **economic growth, job creation and inclusive human development**, we intend to lay a strong foundation of a '**happy**' society.
12. We are blessed to have 'double-engine' traction as we work towards **economic growth & job creation** by developing conducive environment for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** through various policies, incentives, reformed labor laws and minimizing regulatory clearances.
13. Although industrialization in the State of Arunachal Pradesh is still at a nascent stage, the State has enormous potential with its wealth of natural resources.
14. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has formulated 'Arunachal Pradesh State Industrial & Investment Policy' to promote manufacturing and service sectors for bridging the gap between potential and investments and thereby creating employment opportunities.
15. The State Government is also working on enhancing banking network to the last mile for providing access to credit to our enterprises.
16. I am happy to inform that the State now has more than 7,000 registered MSMEs and is targeting increasing the number to 10,000.
17. The State Government is implementing the One-District One-Product (ODOP) initiative under Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.



18. To further assist MSMEs in promoting food processing and value addition in agriculture and allied sectors, through provision of working capital in the nature of revolving funds, the State Government has introduced the 'Atma Nirbhar Khadya Yojana' in the Budget 2023-2024.
19. We request Government of India's support in creation of Green Field Industrial Corridor in the foothill areas in the State to drive industrialization, provide seamless digital connectivity and develop logistics infrastructure.
20. **Infrastructure and Investment** are drivers of **economic growth & job creation** and will be crucial in achieving Vikashit Bharat. Arunachal has come a long way from the days of long foot marches and crossing rivers on elephants to world class roads and bridges. We are one of the best performing States in building infrastructure, with the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself providing Gati and Shakti for its development.
21. The inauguration of Donyi Polo airport, Itanagar has been a landmark event in the country's civil aviation sector, connecting Arunachal Pradesh to the national civil aviation map in the 75th year of independence.
22. We left no stone unturned to make this project a reality and we are extremely thankful to the generous support provided by the Government of India and the blessing of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who inaugurated the airport on 19th November 2022. Itanagar has now joined the other state Capitals in having wide-body jet connectivity and this historic addition to the fast-growing infrastructure capability of the State will remain etched in our memory.
23. Despite the challenging terrain and climatic conditions, we are making remarkable progress in road construction, averaging nearly 2,838 lane kms per year, adding to the 50,555 km of roads in the State. In the next 5 years, Arunachal Pradesh will have over 5,000 kms of National Highways.



24. The development of border infrastructure has been a key area of focus of the double-engine government. Road connectivity to the State's two remotest administrative circles i.e Vijoynagar on the Indo-Myanmar border and Tali on the Indo-Tibetan border was completed in 2022-23, 75 years after independence.
25. Here, I would like to sincerely thank GoI for approving an additional 2,574 kms of highways worth Rs 44,000 Crores as part of the big Infra push in our border areas.
26. It is a matter of immense satisfaction for us that with sustained efforts under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Functional Household Tap Water Connections (FHTC) skyrocketed from 9.9% percent in 2015-16 to 71% percent in 2022-23.
27. Sir, Arunachal Pradesh is home to five major river basins consisting of 19 catchments of rivers consisting of 46 major and medium type rivers. Arunachal Pradesh can be major contributor to the country's water security needs through sustainable utilization of the immense water resources of the State.
28. The State is well endowed with hydropower potential and, working to unlock this potential, we have been able to add 734 MW out of the total installed hydropower capacity of 1,139 MW in just the last 7 years.
29. The recent dedication of the 600 MW Kameng Hydropower project by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has made us the second power surplus State in the North-East region. Work on the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower, the biggest yet hydro-project in India, is progressing rapidly and I thank GoI for approving the Dibang Multipurpose Project of 2,880 MW.
30. Working together with the Ministry of Power, we are taking up the rejuvenation of 29 stalled Hydropower projects with a total installed capacity of 32,415 MW by assigning these projects to Central Public Sector Undertakings. In the first phase, 6 projects with over 6,000 MW capacity are being prioritized.



31. By the year 2024, the State shall have more than 2,000 Km of 132 KV lines plus more than 2,000 Km of 33 KV lines.
32. Sir, for attaining the goal of Vikasit Bharat, energy security, including transition towards clean energy, would be a key component. Arunachal Pradesh can play a major role in achieving the goals of reducing the emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 45% and increasing renewables energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. The total hydropower potential of Arunachal Pradesh is 58,160.20 MW which is 40% of India's total potential of 1,48,700 MW. In the next two decades, we can and will significantly add to the current nationally harnessed capacity of 42,616 MW which is only 28.66% of our total potential.
33. Additionally, Arunachal Pradesh can majorly contribute to the country's energy security by installation of Pumped Storage Projects aimed at enhancing grid stability through integration with renewable energy such as solar power. The State could also play a transformative role in the manufacturing of green hydrogen, being a hydro-rich geography.
34. With welcome support from Government of India, we have taken concrete steps to improve digital connectivity for benefit of civilians as well as security forces. 4G connectivity is being extended to an additional 1,903 villages in the State and I thank Government of India for approving 2,605 4G mobile towers for providing connectivity to more than 3,721 villages in Arunachal Pradesh.
35. I would like to highlight that 5G services have been launched in the Itanagar Capital Region ushering in an era of ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones. It marks the beginning of a revolution in the use of digital services in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, public service delivery and e-commerce.
36. Sir, our work in improving infrastructure will give a tremendous boost to the logistics sector and the nascent investment ecosystem, overcoming key concerns of the State.



37. To uplift the rural economy, the State Government's priority is the promotion of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through the livelihood mission. We have mobilised more than 53,000 women into 6,635 Self Help Groups.
38. Looking at the success of the Arunachal Gramin Express Yojana (AGEY), wherein 300 commercial vehicles were provided last year to Primary Level Federations to improve last-mile service delivery and reduce transportation costs, we have provisioned for 200 additional Vehicles this year. Similarly, based on the immensely encouraging response to the 'Arun Shree Rinn Yojana', we have decided to support 1,000 more SHGs with a fixed deposit of Rs. 1 lakh enabling them to raise loans against these deposits for taking up various income enhancing activities.
39. With support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, we have set up 85 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in the State with capital financing of Rs.15 lakhs each for value-addition capabilities in the supply chains of spices, fruits, and vegetables. A sum of Rs.7 lakhs has been provided this year to each of these Kendras as 'Revolving Fund' for their working capital requirements, which will help in additional income generation for over 30,000 members of these Van Dhan Vikas Kendras and through them thousands more.
40. Agriculture and Allied Sectors are the backbone of our state's economy employing the maximum number of people. The Government launched Atma Nirbhar Yojanas to provide impetus to these sectors and increase farmers' incomes. Under the Atma Nirbhar Krishi Yojana, we were able to assist 9,622 farmers with farming materials and implements last year and are targeting 12,027 farmers with increased allocation in FY 2023-24. Similarly, 3,531 farmers and 345 SHGs were provided financial assistance under "Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana" in 22-23 and about 4413 individual farmers and 3448 SHGs members are expected to receive assistance this year. Under the verticals of 'Atma Nirbhar Pashu Palan Yojna', and 'Atma Nirbhar Matsya Palan Yojana' a



total of 405 and 1,060 beneficiaries, respectively, have been covered. The ‘Atma Nirbhar Plantation Yojana’ has covered 1,029 beneficiaries in the State with the target being 1511 beneficiaries in 23-24.

41. Sir, out of the total potential cultivable area of 25 lakh Ha in the State, only 3.15 lakhs Ha has so far been cultivated. Tapping the huge untapped potential for agriculture area expansion would see us emerge as a major agriculture and horticulture hub and a key contributor in providing food security during the Amrit Kaal.
42. Sir, in the area of job creation, the Government of Arunachal is encouraging youths to become entrepreneurs and ‘job givers’ rather than ‘job seekers.’ The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Swavalamban Yojana (DDUSY) has been hugely successful in meeting the aspirations of our youth and providing them self-employment opportunities.
43. The State Government has provided a total amount of Rs. 125 Crores to finance 828 persons to set up ventures such as eco-tourism, home-stays, restaurants, bakeries, traditional textiles & weaving, motor garages, carpentry, and beauty parlours. To continue supporting the ambitions of our youth to start their dream ventures, the budget allocation has been increased four times targeting employment generation for 1,000 new entrepreneurs, especially women.
44. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh is also supporting the Startup ecosystem by starting an Entrepreneurship Development Program to hone the entrepreneurship skills of our youth. Several successful ventures have been started by 66 youthful entrepreneurs, including women, who are being provided seed money and incubation training.
45. **Minimizing Regulatory Compliance** has received our close attention to achieve twin goals of industrialization and achieving economic self-reliance.



46. The State Govt. has implemented the several initiatives to mitigate the time, effort and cost of regulations and compliances for our growth partners.
47. To motivate the entrepreneurs to set up business, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has enabled self-certification for issue of trading licenses, de-notified 23 redundant Acts and repealed 3 obsolete regulations.
48. A Single Window Portal for Ease of Doing Business has been developed and integrated with the national single window portal wherein 48 services related to applying for licenses, registrations, permits, certificates under 18 departments have been on boarded.
49. Online process for application, approval and issuance of Factory Licenses and Trading Licenses have been introduced.
50. Sir, while the national effort to repeal obsolete and redundant laws have been widely appreciated by the people, a similar effort may perhaps be undertaken to study and simplify the currently valid laws and regulations for further improving ‘ease of doing business.’
51. I would like to propose setting up of a permanent ‘Regulatory Cost Commission’ consisting of relevant departments, institutions and experts with representation from States, to overhaul the current legal landscape and multiplicity of tribunals and regulatory bodies. The introduction of new laws and rules may be subjected to a detailed cost-benefit analysis by the Commission, which may then submit appropriate recommendations for consideration of the government.
52. In this regard, while the policy framework and objectives may be aspirational, the laws, statutes, and rules, being justiciable, must contain clear and practicable provisions, aligned to available resources and capacities. This would avoid imposition of orders and penalties without reference to States’ financial resources and budgetary provisions, which are the prerogative of legislatures.



53. Sir, participation of women in every field of work is fundamental for **inclusive development**. The State Government is implementing several schemes/programmes focusing on **women empowerment** to bring women into the mainstream of all sectors.
54. The State Government has a special scheme aligned to the ‘beti bachao – beti padhao’ campaign called the “Dulari Kanya” Scheme, wherein an amount of Rs.25,000/- is deposited in the fixed deposit Bank Account of every girl child born in any Government Hospital or Government recognised private hospital. This scheme has benefitted more than 8,000 beneficiaries till date.
55. Percentage of women representatives in PRIs is one of the parameters of good governance, and Arunachal Pradesh can boast of 47.34% women representatives in Panchayats.
56. We provide financial assistance to Self-Help Groups and NGOs for exposure visits and educational tours of rural women groups to learn from and replicate best practices. Till now, 800 women have benefitted under this Scheme. Our Self-Help Groups could really benefit from Online and Offline marketing and distribution linkages of their products for their economic empowerment.
57. Sustained investment in **health & nutrition** through the Life-course, ie from child health to geriatric health, is key for **inclusive development** and for a healthy and economically productive society.
58. Learning lessons from the unprecedented pandemic and related response, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has focused on improving the ‘supply’ side of healthcare services, with very welcome support from Government of India, including for community mobilization, awareness generation, and offering free diagnostics, drugs, ambulance, healthcare, immunization, and nutrition services.



59. It gives me great satisfaction to mention that, in just over two years, the State Government has been able to reduce the Health Human resource gap from 33% to 6%, making us one of the best resourced State.
60. The State has made significant progress in minimizing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). The Infant Mortality rate (IMR) has seen the highest 10-point reduction in the country from 22.9 in 2015-16 to 12.9 in 2020-21 as per NFHS-5. Neonatal mortality rate (NNMR) of the state reduced from 11.8 to 7.7 in the same period.
61. Considerable improvement has been made on Institutional deliveries with significant increase from 52.2% to 79.2%.
62. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh is upgrading its health infrastructure wherein 14 district hospitals are under construction and 308 Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized.
63. To reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of its citizens the Government of Arunachal Pradesh is providing Free Diagnostics Service in 55 Health facilities wherein 44 indicated tests are performed. About 25 lakhs tests have been conducted benefiting more than 8 lakh patients.
64. I am pleased to state that from not having an emergency ambulance service in the State, the 108 Emergency Response Ambulance Service currently has a fleet of 110 ambulances and in past one year, this service has served about 34,000 beneficiaries.
65. Arunachal Pradesh is leading the way in establishing green infrastructure and clean supply chains by using drones for health and nutrition. The 'Medicine from the Sky' program has delivered more than 4,000 vital and emergency pharmaceuticals, covering over 10,000 km of ground distance.
66. Arunachal Pradesh has adopted a planning and development paradigm, aligned to the SDGs. The State is well on its way to achieve many of the priority indicators related to nutrition among children as well as maternal health.



67. The State Government is going to supplement the POSHAN Abhiyan, with the recently announced Phal se Poshan Yojana, under which the Anganwadis will be supported to add 10-12 kg. of fresh, locally available nutritional food items and seasonal fruits and vegetables every month to the diet of pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.
68. To further strengthen availability and accessibility of basic healthcare services in remote and difficult to access areas, the time may perhaps have come to convert Accredited Social Health Activists to ‘Accredited Social Health Auxiliary Nurse Midwives.’ Information asymmetry has lessened due to digital connectivity and we may now plan the transition from community mobilization to provision of professional nursing healthcare services to communities, with their services being paid for by the national programs. This will be an important step towards assuring availability of dedicated and referral services in the Primary Health & Wellness Centres at village level.
69. Arunachal Pradesh is implementing high end **skill development** training under State Funded Scheme through Chief Minister Yuva Kaushal Yojana (CMYKY), wherein training is being provided to make the youth more employable and ensuring better placements with higher remuneration and livelihood opportunities.
70. The State Government is giving special attention to impart skills of priesthood and traditional craftsmanship of different products of bamboo, cane, and other locally available raw-materials.
71. Additionally, to preserve and propagate the tribal traditions and way of life, we have allocated funds to establish indigenous prayer centres and are providing honorarium to over 3,000 registered indigenous priests besides undertaking construction of tribal cultural centres.



72. The Government recognises that the loss of language may adversely affect tribal culture, especially their folklore. We have taken up the project of documenting the cultural heritage of 5 tribes in the first phase and are targeting an additional 14 tribes by the end of this year. As part of 22 e-Governance projects prioritized in the year 2022-23, an e-Indigenous Cultural Online digital platform is being developed for housing folklore and folk music of all major tribes.
73. Sir, it is our Government's privilege that we were able to undertake the service of remembering, recognizing and honouring the immense contribution made by our forefathers to India's struggle against colonial rule. We have identified 220 Unsung Heroes of our freedom struggle as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav programme and an exhibition showcasing the lives, struggles and achievements of our unsung heroes was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India.
74. We are undertaking construction of State Memorials at 13 locations for our unsung heroes as well as construction of 1962 War Memorial & Park to honour the grit of our brave and courageous soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. For continuing with the documentation effort as well as spread the legends of their unmatched heroism, a 'Research Unit' in the RGU, Arunachal Pradesh is being created.
75. The sustained investment in human capital and efforts have seen positive outcomes. The student's enrolment in government schools has improved remarkably touching 2.15 lakhs consistently since the last three years. The school dropout rate which stood above 9% some time ago is now below 2.3%. Today 90% of our schools have adequate teachers as per the norms. We have successfully established 32 digital libraries across the state and are modernizing our school infrastructure by developing 50 model schools in the State thanks to the generous support approved by the Hon' Prime Minister.



76. Sir, we have drafted GIS based master plans for 12 towns and are proactively participating in **utilising Gati-Shakti for area development and social infrastructure.**
77. The Government has roped in the State Remote Sensing Application Centre for integration of 28 layers on the Gati-Shakti portal and work on sanitisation of metadata standards and positional accuracy is under process. We have integrated a few additional layers such as geological fault lines, wetlands, streams, airports, advance landing grounds and helipads in the national master plan. A PM Gati-Shakti Data centre is being established in the State which will soon be functional.
78. Sir, we would like to suggest integration of Gati-Shakti portal with the Parivesh portal to accurately assess and expedite forest clearance proposals with the help of satellite imagery and AI tools.
79. In conclusion, I would like to recommend the hosting of ‘Vikasit Bharat Samvad’ by the NITI Aayog through the i-GOT platform under Mission Karmayogi, ie virtual talks and panel discussions by global and national thought leaders, scholars, domain experts, policymakers, and key stakeholders on a regular basis. The legislators, government functionaries, panchayati raj representatives and others who may not have opportunities of trainings and exposure to latest developments and future trends may all benefit from knowledge of best practices, ideas, and innovations. Such knowledge may help in evaluation of impacts on program implementation in local contexts and collaboration for possible solutions.
80. Being deeply rooted in earth and environment reverences, India has the distinct advantage of having traditionally pro-planet people. We in Arunachal Pradesh have always treated nature as a partner rather than an obstacle and I take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to LiFE – to continue with our



environmentally conscious lifestyle towards mindful and deliberate utilization of the abundant resources' nature has gifted us with.

81. Fulfilling the aspirations of the youth, and livelihood generation through self-employment opportunities while continuing with our investment in infrastructure for improved connectivity and ease of living will be the foundation of a prosperous and happy Arunachal Pradesh in the Amrit Kaal, ready to contribute to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision and become a 'vikasit' state of a 'vikasit' nation!
82. I sincerely thank Hon' Prime Minister Chairman and Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog for giving me this opportunity for sharing my views, my colleagues for their patient listening and the Officers of NITI Aayog for organizing the Governing Council Meeting in befitting manner.

Jai Hind

Jai Arunachal