

**Respected Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Assam
Legislative Assembly,**

It gives me immense pleasure to address this august House during the first session of the 14th Assam Legislative Assembly. I heartily welcome you to this new House and offer my best wishes to you all. I thank the people of Assam from all over the state - Brahmaputra valley, Barak valley, hill areas, plains - and from all sections of our composite society, including the students and youth, for their massive and peaceful participation in the recent Assembly elections. My thanks to them for their whole-hearted support and cooperation for this popular mandate for change and strengthening of democracy. My Government will work with dedication and sincerity to match the immense faith placed in it by the people of Assam.

Assam is the land of Mahapurush Sri Srimanta Sankardev, Mahapurush Sri Sri Madhav dev, and Ajan Pir. The message and blessings of such luminaries will continue to be our guiding light, and my Government will ever remain dedicated to uphold their ideals. The contributions and achievements of Chaolung Sukaphaa, Bir Lachit, Bir Chilarai and other such historical great personalities in our nation building and statecraft will proudly count among inspirations for my Government.

They all have enriched our enduring value system and way of life; by promoting the **values of life** and preserving our glorious traditions and culture, we will be able to move towards making **Assam an ideal state for the nation.**

Hon'ble Prime Minister's ideal and visionary plan for the development of the country and Assam in particular - "*Sab kaa saath, sab kaa vikaas*" will be the beacon of my Government.

Security, good governance, and development for all the citizens in Assam will be among the top priorities of my Government. We will do our best to give a clean, efficient and responsive administration, and will strive to ensure that our delivery system works with full **accountability** and complete **transparency** in all the areas of governance.

Hon'ble Members, I am going to lay out before you the vision of my Government for ushering in a new era of lasting peace, security and development that will take Assam to newer heights of glory - that is building a *Xuroxhito Axom, Vikoxito Axom*, and *Xarbasreshtha Axom* indeed.

My Government firmly reaffirms that Assam is the land of **potentiality, possibilities, and prosperity.** My Government will explore these aspects in the right perspective for bringing about speedy growth so as to meet the longstanding hopes and aspirations of our citizens irrespective of their ethnicity, caste, creed or religious communities. We will endeavour to bring about all-round development of Assam by optimally utilizing our

bounteous natural and human resources and harnessing **latest global technologies** and **modern management techniques**. The aims of my Government will include achieving **balanced development of all the regions of the State - Brahmaputra valley, Barak valley, hill areas, plain areas**; and protecting the legitimate interests of all sections of our composite society - tribes, castes, ethnic groups, religious and linguistic minorities, women, children, the differently abled, rural, urban, the poor, the unemployed, the ones lagging behind - all inclusively.

All the initiatives of my Government will be geared towards bringing Assam to be one of the states **on the top of the list in development**. I assure you, Hon'ble Members, everyone in my Government, across all the levels, will work wholeheartedly to make this **new Assam of our dreams** a reality.

The following provides a glimpse of the strategy and priorities of my Government.

STATE SECURITY

My Government is fully committed to ensure the **security of life and property** as well as **protecting the identity and swabhiman** of all our citizens.

Assam Accord implementation

My Government is fully committed to implementing the Assam Accord in letter and spirit. The efforts would, inter alia, include: ensuring constitutional, legislative, social and cultural safeguards as per the clause 6 of the Accord; protecting the *xatra*

and other religious, cultural and ecological lands from infiltrators; eviction of the encroachments on government lands by persons of doubtful citizenship, while following the due process of law; complete sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border within a definite timeframe; putting identifying markers on the boats plying in border areas; and other such measures as may be required.

My Government is fully committed to timely updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) by scrutinizing the citizenship of all suspected residents. Also, it will take up the matter with the concerned authorities for leveraging biometrics and other IT tools to assist in the electoral rolls revisions. .

Law & order

Assam has been fighting insurgency for more than three decades now; however, my Government would appeal to all the militant groups to shun violence and join the mainstream of life in the larger interest of the state of Assam and its people. It would be the endeavour of my Government to take the peace process forward and reach settlement.

My Government will strengthen the law and order machinery and provide all necessary support to our security forces. The following initiatives are contemplated:

- (a) Identification of vulnerable zones and strengthening infrastructure of police forces including setting up of new Police Stations and Outposts, creation of new posts and providing adequate equipment and training.

- (b) The families of Police personnel affected by terrorism and related violence will be given additional support from the my Govt.
- (c) Steps will be taken to have one model Police Station in each district within the next 3 years starting with the current financial year.
- (d) My Govt. will create a women's cell with adequate strength in all the Police Stations in a phased manner within the next 5 years.
- (e) An Academy of Excellence for the training of policemen shall be established and the capacity of Police Training College in Dergaon will be upgraded within the next 3 years starting from the current financial year. This would go a long way in strengthening the training infrastructure of Police Officers and personnel.
- (f) Steps will be initiated to leverage Social Media for greater Police - Public interface.
- (g) Sensitization of Policemen on human rights and women's rights would be augmented with practical field orientation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment generation and poverty alleviation

My Government's vision for employment generation will include: skill development and vocational training on large scale, leveraging the hospitality and tourism industry, ensuring single-

window clearances for ease of doing business, promoting local entrepreneurship and youth-owned businesses, conducting job fairs in major cities with big employers in hospitality, security, BPO, IT and other such high employment generation sectors. The employment exchanges across the State shall be upgraded and digitally connected for helping the unemployed youth. Direct individual benefit schemes for the under-privileged would be implemented with direct benefit transfer (DBT), organising *Garib-dukhiya Kalyan Melas* and providing interest-free short-term loans to the self help groups (SHGs) shall be explored for the poor.

Overall, the initiatives that my Government will take for all-round development of the State and promoting the ease of doing business will generate growth and economic development, which in turn will lead to direct and indirect employment generation and poverty alleviation in the State.

Panchayat & Rural Development

My Government will efficiently implement all the Central Government schemes like MGNREGA, etc. in the P&RD sector, the emphasis being on making the benefits reach the intended target groups as envisaged under the schemes. As per the vision of my Government, e-commerce shall be harnessed to facilitate marketing of the products made by rural artisans and craftsmen, and arrangement shall be made for providing training and funding to rural artisans, craftsmen, cane and bamboo artisans, wood workers, brass and metal workers, handicraft workers, petty

businesses, etc. The availability of micro-finance to rural entrepreneurs shall be facilitated under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**. "Rurban clusters" shall be developed under the **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission**.

Convergence shall be arranged with related initiatives such as rural electrification, safe drinking water supply and sanitation, road connectivity, provision of LPG connections under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**, etc.

Urban development

My Government's vision for urban development would include: reviewing and correcting the flaws in the urban drainage system throughout the state; designing and implementing an ambitious plan for Urban Solid Waste management by applying practices like vermicompost, pelletization, aerobic composting, mechanical composting as well as energy generation; designing state-of-the-art road and traffic management system using latest technology to improve road security in the state; guiding Urban Local Bodies to build adequate civic amenities like public gardens, children parks, bus stops, footpaths and public toilets, etc.; providing effective and efficient public transport system comprising buses, mini buses, maxi cabs, radio taxis and autorickshaws at an affordable price in all cities and towns across the state; constructing urban trade centres in each region - Lower Assam, Upper Assam, Central Assam and Barak valley - to harness the regional commerce potential.

The two schemes of the Govt. of India - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** and the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** - shall be implemented in 13 towns such as Guwahati, Nagaon, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Tezpur, Jorhat, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri under PMAY, and Guwahati, Silchar, Nagaon, and Dibrugarh under AMRUT during 2016-17.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call programme "**Swachh Bharat Mission**" will be implemented will full vigour and energy. The "National Urban Livelihood Mission" shall be our gift to the poor.

Works under the Finance Commission awards shall be expedited. My Government will take action to improve public transport, reduce flooding, promote civic amenities, emphasize efficient management of solid wastes, and introduce single window clearance system for building permission, trade license, etc.

Guwahati Development

The vision of my Government includes facilitating the efforts of the Central Government for **converting Guwahati into a Smart City**; revising the Master Plan of Guwahati; preventing traffic congestion by building new roads, widening existing roads wherever feasible; establishing a new water supply system to cover the entire population of the city; using state-of-the-art technologies to prevent flash floods; reorganising the garbage disposal system of the city in line with the **Swachh Bharat**

Abhiyan; creating green canopies in various areas of the city; building a number of green parks and joggers' points in the city; preventing destruction of hills and hillocks in and around the city; protecting water bodies in and around the city; and arranging city buses to cover the unconnected areas in Greater Guwahati area.

My Government will pursue the matter with the Govt. of India for approval of funding for the Rail-based Mass Rapid Transit System (**Metro Rail**) for Guwahati city. The ongoing works under JnNURM, ADB, JICA, and Swachh Bharat Mission shall be expedited. A GIS-based planning tool shall be utilised for intensive plantation, open spaces and water bodies management in the city.

Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing Industry, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

The vision of my Government includes: branding the different varieties of rice from Assam through geographical indications (GI); setting up adequate number of low-cost cold storage service and warehousing facilities; exploring the possibility of making agricultural loans available at low interest rates; providing complete benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana; exploring the possibility of establishing a separate venture capital fund to boost modern industries that compliment agriculture like jute production; utilising the expertise of AAU and ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for augmenting the programme of issuing annual Soil Health Cards

to the farmers in all districts of the state; facilitating multi- and mixed-cropping in agricultural lands; encouraging agro-clinics and agro-business centres; developing agro-industry units like food processing; developing food parks in the four geographical regions of Assam; standardizing and packaging traditional alcoholic preparations as exotic, international brands; exploring the possibility of upgrading the Assam Agricultural University to the status of a Central Agricultural University; promoting agro-research on local produce and varieties; augmenting research programmes on agricultural biotechnology in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology of the Central Government; augmenting extension programmes by establishing close coordination between the Directorate of Agriculture and the Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Assam Agricultural University; developing a robust horticulture and floriculture plan for the state, with special focus on orchids; building of storage, transportation and management facilities for horticultural produce; setting up e-commerce platforms for sale of local horticultural produce; and introducing research topics and course capsules on specific horticultural produce of Assam in AAU.

In order to realize **Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to make India's North-East an organic hub of Asia**, Assam will play a pivotal role. My Government will work in close cooperation with the Central Government in reaching that goal.

One Centre of Excellence of citrus crops of Assam is being established at Boko to focus on technology demonstration/

technology dissemination along with training facilities for farmers. My Government will utilize this Centre for capacity building of farmers through demonstration of high-tech horticulture. Similarly, another Centre of Excellence for fruits and vegetables will be set up at Barama, Nagaon.

Irrigation during the dry season is a prerequisite factor for enhancement in production and productivity of horticultural crops. Irrigation ensures crop quality also. In order to go with the 'More crops per drop' programme of the Govt. of India, micro-irrigation system comprising drip and micro sprinklers are emphasized. The newly-launched '**Prime Minister's Krishi Sichai Yojana**' will be implemented in the State from this financial year.

Fishery

The vision of my Government for this important sector includes: setting up cooperative societies of fish farmers and traditional fishermen; developing gene bank facilities for the fish species to avoid genetic degradation and extinction; implementing standardized technological advances for new species combination, nutritional aspects, alternative fish systems, and fish disease management; upgrading and modernising the College of Fishery Science at Raha, Nagaon; using remote sensing technology to identify wetlands of the state in order to create large number of fisheries; and encouraging technology-based fish farming.

My Government is committed to promoting pisciculture as one of the most important agricultural activity of the state, and making pisciculture a profitable venture for our fish farmers in terms of both edible and ornamental fish production.

Cooperation

My Government's vision for the co-operation sector includes: encouraging formation of cooperative societies in agriculture, pisciculture, agro-industries, tourism and SME sectors; reviving Sualkuchi as an ideal cooperative township with respect to silk material production; exploring to develop a network of urban or rural cooperative banks; and popularizing cooperative movements across various agricultural and agro-industry sectors.

My Government has proposed to implement a number of schemes for creation of rural infrastructure facilities to enhance the storage capacity of food grains and other agricultural products by constructing godowns in the rural areas of Assam under the scheme of Rural Infrastructure Development (NABARD). The Assam State Cooperative Housing Federation Ltd. (HOUSEFED) has been entrusted to construct 244 rural godowns in the State of Assam under the scheme.

Another important scheme is the Up-gradation and Refurbishment of Plant and Machineries of Cattle Feed Plant at Changsari in Kamrup district to be implemented by West Assam

Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL - popularly known as "**Purabi**") during the year 2016-17; this has been taken up under the RIDF scheme. As a step towards digitization of the Cooperation Department, the second phase of the e-Governance Project is proposed to be implemented in 2016-17.

Further, the Cooperation Department has proposed to create infrastructure facilities by constructing new District and Sub-Divisional level offices for the office of the Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies during the year 2016-17.

Besides, the Cooperation Department has proposed to provide financial assistance to different cooperative societies for business activities including the women Cooperative Societies for economic empowerment of women in rural areas of Assam.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

The vision of my Government includes digitizing of the public distribution system and installing high-tech vehicle tracking system; and ensuring that rice makes to the FCI godowns at standard rates of MSP. Through the National Food Security Act, all rural and urban poor will be covered. All Antyodaya Anna Yojana card holders will be provided 35 Kg of rice each at a subsidized rate of Rs.2.00 per Kg per month. All Priority Household card holders will be provided 5 Kg of rice per member at Rs.2.00 per Kg per month.

100% Data of the selected beneficiaries and GPSS/FP shop have been digitized as a part of End-to-End computerization of supply chain management under the NFSA, 2013. The internet connectivity is being provided upto GPSS level. The State Transparency Portal (www.fcs.assam.gov.in) has been created, which has all the details of this department and also the details of allocation. The Online allocation will be started very soon.

An **Online Grievance Redressal** system has been set up. The **Consumer Helpline** and the **Call centre** have been set-up at the Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Assam, Guwahati with **Toll Free No. 1-800-345-3611 and 1967 (BSNL Enabled)**. ADC i/c FCS & CA in respect of general areas and Pr. Secy./Sr. Officers of FCS & CA Deptt. for 6th schedule areas have been notified as DGROs. The State Women Commission has been notified as "State Food Commission" for regular monitoring of the scheme.

Under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), 91.76% beneficiaries have been covered under the PAHAL Scheme. Steps will be taken for online allocation of Kerosene oil under PDS. NIC has been asked to develop the software.

My Government will streamline the Public Distribution System, effective procurement of paddy, restoration of the distribution of sugar under PDS and regular supply of other essential items.

Environment & Forest

My Government will take effective steps to prevent poaching of rhinos, for which help will be taken of the modern technological tools, electronic surveillance, etc. The special anti-rhino poaching task force shall be strengthened further. Those found to be involved in rhino poaching activities shall be dealt with sternly.

Biodiversity is a major strength of our State. My Government will implement the Biological Diversity Act in letter and spirit for preserving our biodiversity, including protecting biodiversity in watersheds. In this regard, my Government will utilize the services of the universities and research institutes for conservation of endangered species of crops, fruits and animals.

My Government will lay thrust on afforestation, and will take up plantation drives in a big way to restore the ecological balance and improve the forest cover, as a part of the ideal assam strategy. Another area of focus will be bamboo cultivation especially in flood-prone areas of the state.

Moreover, my Government will give priority to implementing the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in letter and spirit; constituting Fast Track Courts for speedy discharge of wildlife-related disputes; banning usage of plastics in eco-sensitive areas; promoting Joint Forestry Management through participation of neighbouring communities and educational institutions; developing grazing lands; constituting Urban Pollution Control

Board to curb extra-industrial pollutions; implementing efficient management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Bio-Medical Waste (BMW); enforcing eco-friendly modes of transport like CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), bio-diesel or electricity; enforcing environmental standards and norms for industries and civil society; city planning and its restructuring to maintain natural flow of streams, rivers, hillocks and open spaces in urban areas.

Handloom, Textiles and Sericulture

Handloom forms a precious part of generational legacy of Assam and exemplifies the richness which has been kept alive by skilled weavers engaged in the age old tradition of weaving. The weavers in Assam with their skillful blending of myths, faiths, symbols and imagery provide the fabric an appealing dynamism. Handloom sector employs more than 25 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers, and is second only to the agriculture sector in terms of providing employment. Handloom is the cultural heritage of Assam and hence, my Government will protect and promote the handloom sector.

Sericulture is an agro-based industry which plays a vital role towards upliftment of rural economy. Assam enjoys the unique distinction being the only state in the world to produce all the commercially exploited varieties of silkworm, i.e., Eri, Muga, Mulberry, and Tassar. My Government will work towards transforming this household occupation into a vibrant commercial activity.

Some of the priorities of the vision of my Government, inter-alia, include developing muga slik as an international brand; making sericultural produce distribution mandatory in any high profile official souvenir distribution; promoting local entrepreneurship for reinvigorating sericulture; constructing digital platforms in association with the state e-platforms to promote slik industry of the state; making it mandatory for all government offices to use only indigenous fabric, handloom and local products for in-house decoration and furnishing; promoting the use of locally-produced souvenirs for state guests; providing Geographical Indication (GI) to distinctive silk of Assam; promoting e-commerce for providing global market access to the handloom and handicrafts of Assam; promoting innovations in designing of handloom products through local, state-level, national and international exhibitions.

The programme proposed for 2016-17 include : Targets to be increased of Muga Raw Silk production from 126 MT to 130 MT and Eri Raw Silk production from 2,500 MT to 2,816 MT respectively at the end of 2016-17. Target of beneficiaries through various assistances to be increased from 63,110 to 70,000 at the end of 2016-17 under beneficiary-oriented schemes. Establishment of "RESHAM HUB" at Reshom Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati for exhibition/display/sale of silk products and modern machinery and equipments for creating awareness among the rearers/ weavers/ entrepreneurs/ importers/ exporters/ research scholars, etc., for augmentation of the production of

raw silk, quality cocoons, diversified products, etc., for earning state revenue, and promotion of silk tourism in the state. Women-based programme under Cluster Sericulture Development Project will be undertaken.

Refurbishment of the Sericulture Museum at Khanapara, will be undertaken by introducing additional attractive features like Audio-Visual Demonstration unit for the benefit of sericulturists, students, research scholars, prospective entrepreneurs and general tourists with the aim of publicising and modernising the rich traditional sericulture industry of Assam.

My Government will endeavour that Assam emerges as a leader in the world market of Vanya Silk by the 2026. For this purpose, a mission-mode project called "ASSAM SILK OUTREACH MISSION" "SENEHJORI" is being taken up under the Sustainable Development Goal. The Assam Silk Outreach Mission is a Assam Mission for production within ten years of: a million Kg of Muga, 10 million Kg of Eri, 0.15 million Kg of Mulberry, an integrated development of Sericulture and Handloom sector and creation of wealth in our villages.

Industry & Commerce

One of the biggest challenges before my Government is to create employment avenues for the ever-increasing number of unemployed youths. For generation of employment through setting up of large and medium industries in the state, my Govt. will implement "**Ease of Doing Business**" and to facilitate setting

up of production base by national and multi-national companies under "**Make in India**" initiatives, it will take the necessary steps under State Industrial Policy as well as NEIIPP'07.

My Government envisions to promote a mindset change among the youths to go for business enterprises as a means of employment; provide Skill Development among the youths under '**Skill India** Programme'; find a larger role for heavy and medium scale industries to promote employment generation under '**Make in India**' programme; provide support to Micro, Small and Medium enterprises under '**Start up India**' programme, covering finance, infrastructure, technology, marketing support and incubation centers; developing infrastructure for setting up all kinds of industries by using waste land and closed PSU lands; and taking lead in national and international marketing efforts under **ACT EAST Policy** under the **BRAND ASSAM** banner.

My Govt will also adopt the following strategies : Promote rapid industrialization by effective use of **Single Window Agency under Ease of Doing Business** along with self certification system. Promote forward and backward linkages in raw material supply and marketing efforts towards optimum use of local produces. Promote the use of best international practices in technology, management, marketing, R & D and innovation in technology. Revive and promote traditional crafts and industries by training, marketing, finance, cluster development. Improve the tea industry including Assam Tea Corporation. Review the State Industrial Policy for attracting

bigger investments after consulting industrial houses. Setting up of Industrial Hub along 4-Lane Highway. Organizing investors' meet for investment promotion in the state. Educational Tour/ Study Tour for entrepreneurs, students, etc. Innovation Fund for grassroot innovators/entrepreneurs. Appointment of professional consultants to facilitate industry in the state. Skill Development and apprenticeship in developed states. State incentives for setting up of Large & Medium industries.

My Government's vision for industrial development also includes: creating land bank with government surplus land (without displacing the inhabitants); establishing 'Single Window clearance' system at district headquarters for facilitating potential investors and to eradicate malpractices; inviting investment from national and international players by introducing suitable incentives; encouraging downstream industries with raw materials available from the Gas Cracker Plant at Dibrugarh; setting up SEZs (Special Economic Zones) for different sectors of industries in sync with geographical and ecological parameters, while protecting the rights of labour and families; taking time-bound measures to revive the closed industrial establishments; making the traditional cottage industries of bamboo, cane, silk and bell metal as a part of the SEZs.

As per Hon'ble Prime Minister's ACT EAST policy, my Government will make Assam an IT hub, for generating employment; encouraging, facilitating and rewarding SMEs operating with innovative ideas and use of latest technologies;

developing warehousing and cold storage hubs in places like Guwahati, Silchar and Jorhat, etc to cater to agro-industries; setting up District Industry Guidance Centres to provide services and support facilities to small scale industries; encouraging industry-academia collaboration to set up incubation centres for promising entrepreneurs; branding and preserving GI (Geographical Indications) of products and services of the state.

Tea industry

My Government's vision for the development of tea industry includes: implementation of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 in letter and spirit; providing adequate social, financial and health security to the workers in the tea industry; encouraging small tea growers and their Self Help Groups or cooperative societies; promoting organic farming to discourage rampant use of chemical fertilizers and adulteration to regain access in health conscious markets; building an international brand around Assam Tea; using e-commerce to effectively tap the national and international markets; promoting entrepreneurship, research and innovation in flavoring of tea.

My Government will get a study conducted by experts into the possibility of reviving the sick tea gardens of Assam including the Assam Tea Corporation.

Holding exchange programs to share best practices and initiate cross collaboration with the rest of the proliferating tea industry in India and beyond, encouraging modernisation of tea

factories and electronic tea auction, promoting tea estate tourism, and strengthening the R&D institutes for studies pertaining to tea industry are also envisaged.

Irrigation, Water Resources, Flood & Erosion Control

The vision of my Government includes: providing irrigation facilities to the agricultural land in the State, and adopting technically advanced, moisture-conserving methods of irrigation such as drip and sprinkler irrigation.

My Government attaches top priority to flood and erosion control measures. The world's biggest river island Majuli is our glorious heritage site; it is a highly respected centre of Vaishnavite culture. Majuli will be considered as a high priority zone and an expert committee will be constituted to chalk out an action plan to control erosion and secure its future. Constituting an Expert Group to study the dredging of Brahmaputra and working out the future course of action shall also be considered. In order to control the sediment flowing down to the Brahmaputra & its tributaries, treatment of catchment areas through a basin-level organization is necessary. The Govt. of India will be requested to expedite the proposal of constitution of NEBRRA, i.e., North-East Brahmaputra River Rejuvenation Authority (a basin-level organization) by restructuring of the existing Brahmaputra Board.

My Government will identify the resources to take up innovative schemes of erosion-preventing plantations (like bamboo, mangroves) along the river banks for implementation

by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department under MGNREGA.

For protecting the livelihoods of inhabitants in flood affected areas, my Government will construct/strengthen the embankments, identify locations for plantation on river banks under MGNREGA and to provide suitable drainage to save the agricultural crops, animal husbandry, etc. My Government may explore with the Central Government the possibility of introducing an insurance and rehabilitation scheme for flood and erosion victims.

Public Works Department (NH & Buildings)

My Government's initiatives would include strengthening and development of the road networks. Land Acquisition for Mangaldoi Bypass and Gauripur Bypass will be taken up. 13 new National Highways covering a length of 969.223 km will be added. Feasibility study for 313 km stretch comprising Dhodar Ali, Ramani Ali, Baihata Chariali to Udalguri via Goreswar, Khairabari, Tangla, Lahoal to Sonari via Nahorkatia Namrup, Moran to Nahorkatia via Rajgarh and 6 newly-declared NHs covering a length of 254 km has been included in the Annual Plan 2016-17.

Construction of missing links will be taken up to improve communication infrastructure in a vast area of high agricultural output boosting growth of agro-based industries, horticulture, tourism, etc., which, in turn, would help in employment generation and increase of per capita income.

Construction of the new Assam Legislative Assembly building at Dispur, which includes chambers for both Upper and Lower Houses, will be expedited.

With proper funding the on-going projects of construction of Assam Houses at Vellore, Chennai , Kolkata and Bengaluru will be completed within March, 2017. Construction of 19 Model Schools and 20 Girls' Hostels will be completed this year.

The ITIs in Assam would be modernized and their curriculum updated to suit the industry and market requirements. This will create job opportunities for young people of the State.

Public Works Department (Roads)

My Government envisions to connecting the villages of the state with pukka roads, leading to district and state highways. All district/state roads of Assam will be re-constructed/renovated in a phased manner so as to facilitate easy transportation and communication. Completing East-West Corridor under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) to upgrade and widen major highways; more bridges over the river Brahmaputra and river Barak will be constructed and all wooden bridges in the State will be converted to RCC bridges in phased manner.

Waterways

My Government's vision includes conducting a study on the feasibility of dredging of the river Brahmaputra, identifying the sources of siltation and addressing them accordingly. The study would also cover the multi-streaming nature of river

Brahmaputra and the possibility of making it a single stream which will increase the depth of the river and in the process will provide huge surplus land to be used for agriculture and other purposes.

Analysing and implementing the use of alternate mode of transport like inland waterways in Brahmaputra and Barak rivers, and developing state-of-the-art Brahmaputra and Barak river fronts are also envisaged.

Aviation

My Government would explore the possibility of reviving the abandoned airports in the State, developing new airports at feasible locations, and upgrading the L.G.B. Airport into a world class airport with the help of the Government of India.

Railways

My Government will work closely with the Government of India for getting completed the construction of Bogibeel bridge by the Union Railways Ministry, construction of more rail-cum-road bridges over the river Brahmaputra, accelerating the pace of the gauge unification programme, and conversion of major railway routes in the state to double track.

Housing

My Government will give emphasis on the housing sector, and will consider measures like introducing housing microfinance for people with low or irregular income; erecting permanent transit camps near flood-prone areas; designing and developing

the necessary infrastructure with due consideration to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes; implementing the National Building Code of India, 2005 to safeguard constructions against natural disasters; setting up independent monitoring agencies to ensure compliance standards of government and private buildings. Rural housing for the tea garden labourers will be explored on the tea garden surplus lands.

Power and Renewable Energy

My Government will give priority to providing electricity to all households in the state in a time-bound manner, making Assam a power surplus state, reducing energy losses due to inefficient distribution network, preparing annual Energy Budgets that would enable the State to analyse the consumption and generation/procurement of power, emphasizing on generation of renewable energy - solar, hydel and wind, introducing the concept of Energy Audit and its phase-wise implementation. A study shall be carried out for establishing a University for Petroleum & Energy Studies in Assam.

My Government will take up initiatives over and above the flagship programme of Deendayal Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. A Smart Grid Pilot Project for Guwahati City will be executed. Re-structured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system will improve electricity infrastructure. Considering that some villages are too remote to be electrified

through grid extension, installation of Solar Home Lighting Systems, standalone Micro-Grid SPV Plants and Solar Central Charging stations with distribution of solar lanterns to villagers will be taken up, and Solar water pumps will be setup in far-off and isolated places.

Mines & minerals

The vision of my Government for this revenue-generating sector would include: implementing an independent mineral resource based industrial policy for the state; providing employment opportunities for duly qualified local people in mining projects; forming an independent Monitoring Committee to assess ecological issues in mining areas; implementing a regular mineral audit, etc.

Tourism

The vision of my Government in the all-important tourism sector includes: building a "Brand Assam" to promote tourism in the state; working in close collaboration with other neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, etc. to promote tourism in the state; appointing brand ambassadors; adopting a tourism policy with extensive involvement of private sector and active participation of local people; taking forward the baton of Hon'ble PM's ACT EAST policy; making Guwahati a hub for Medical Tourism; setting up tourist information kiosks and Single Window Tourism Service Centres at various places within the state as well as in order parts of the country.

Also envisaged are: Popularizing Kaziranga National Park, Majuli the river island, Kamakhya Temple and events like 'Ambubasi Mela', celebrations like Rongali and Bhogali Bihu as integral components of "Brand Assam". Promoting Bed & Breakfast accommodations all across the state that provide affordable overnight stay for tourists. Popularizing local and community hosts to promote Bed & Breakfast accommodation services all across the state. Conducting special training programmes for local youths to work as Tourist Guides with the knowledge of at least one foreign language.

Development of Barak Valley

My Government will give due importance to the balanced development of all the regions of the state. For Barak valley, the vision includes: developing a network of all-weather roads for better connectivity of Barak Valley with the rest of Assam and with neighbouring states like Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura; completing the East-West Corridor (Mahasadak) covering the stretch from Silchar to Guwahati; constructing more bridges over river Barak to facilitate smooth connectivity; exploring the use of river Barak for commercial navigation mainly from Lakhimpur to Karimganj up to Kolkata via Bangladesh; enhancing the capacity of Cachar Cancer hospital & Research Centre; completing the Indo-Bangladesh border sealing exercise, etc.

Information Technology

In line with Hon'ble PM's emphasis on wider use of Information Technology for the development of the State, my Government's vision includes developing IT Parks with state-of-the-art amenities; developing Silchar, Guwahati and Dibrugarh as IT hubs; promoting greater usage of local language script in computer applications; launching a special programme to attract IT and ITES sector companies to set up business in the state.

Education

My Government's vision in the education sector includes: setting up adequate number of schools, engineering colleges and polytechnics in the state; preparing our premier institutions like Gauhati University, Cotton College State University and Dibrugarh University for global competitiveness; speeding up the completion of infrastructural works of half-done higher educational institutions and universities in Assam; setting up more ITIs to impart training on latest trades.

Further, the vision includes setting up a University of Veterinary, Animal and Fishery Sciences; facilitating Central government in quickly setting up of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other medical colleges sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY); establishing management colleges in the state; establishing vocational and professional courses as an essential part of college and university syllabi; making skill development a co-component

of the syllabi; promoting Industry-Institute Linkages to reduce education-employability gap; developing and promoting R&D institutes and science parks for biotechnology, food technology, nanotechnology, horticulture, sericulture, pisciculture, etc.; constituting a Monitoring Committee to regularly review, upgrade and update the syllabi and infrastructure of all universities.

My Government also envisions initiating the steps for compulsory enrolment and zero dropouts in schools; waiving fees of girl students right from class 10 to university level which come under the State Govt. jurisdiction.

Moreover, it is envisioned that every year a number of meritorious students will be identified at Class VIII level and will be given financial support upto the completion of their study so that Assam can build a pool of human resources who can compete in the toughest examinations of the country like IAS, IPS, IFS, IIT, IIM, etc.

In order to enhance the skills of girls, vocational institutes will be established in the interior places of Assam. Establishing one IIM in Assam, and one full fledged state university in the Hill areas of the state may also be examined.

Revamping of SEBA will be given priority, including the process of appointment of its chairperson. Recommendations of Srinath Barua Committee will be considered with due consultation with all stakeholders. A robust, error-free examination system will be ensured in the HSLC examination.

The current issues of Cotton College State University will be resolved in consultation with the key stakeholders.

My Govt. will initiate action for filling-up of regular vacant posts of teachers of LP and UP Schools. Endeavour will be made to ensure compulsory enrolment of all the children belonging to the age group of 6 to 14 years and to reduce the dropout rate in the schools to zero level. My Govt. will also explore the possibility of regularizing the services of TET qualifying contractual teachers working in different elementary schools. Moreover, measures will also be explored to provide jobs to the SC/ST candidates who have qualified in TET examination. My Govt. will examine the possibility of re-starting the process of provincialization of venture elementary schools. It will make effort to address the grievances of Siksha Mitra, Siksha Karmi, etc. My Govt. will also examine the aspects of introducing Pre-Primary classes in elementary schools to strengthen the Primary education.

Health Care

One of the most important sectors for my Government is the Health Sector. Despite important progresses made, a lot needs to be done in this sector to improve the health indicators in the state. In the health sector, the state faces many challenges today: we have serious scarcity of doctors, nurses and paramedics. Although efforts have been made to upgrade the medical colleges and other hospitals, they have infrastructure and other constraints, especially in the tertiary care segments. For almost all major ailments, our people tend to go for treatment outside Assam, and

as a result, out of pocket expenses for the general populace continue to be very high. However, we are embarking on a new journey; we have a clear vision too for this important sector.

Vision : As far as the health sector is concerned, the vision of my Government is to ensure equitable access for all citizens of the state, regardless of income levels, social status, gender, caste or religion, an affordable, accountable and appropriate health services of assured quality, ranging from promotive, preventive, curative to rehabilitative. To achieve this ambitious vision, my Government plans to put new governance and institutional mechanisms that are responsive to the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

Primary and Secondary Health Care : One of the most important tasks before my Government is to strengthen primary and secondary health care services. We require around 7,000 sub-centres and 1,200 primary health centres in the state. There are huge gaps in this domain, we will plan to fill these. In the secondary health care segment too, there is dearth of efficient facilities. My Government will plan to equip the District Hospitals and Community Health Centres in the desired manner. My Government will strive to set up more multi-specialty hospitals with round the clock services in every subdivision. Similarly, my Government will take steps to increase the bed strength in every district hospital. Furthermore, all public healthcare facilities will have periodic quality checks through the involvement of third parties to retain the desired quality standards.

My Government will strive to complete all healthcare buildings. Wherever feasible, steps will be taken to make full use of existing schemes of the Government of India in this regard. There are noticeable gaps in the human resources for health as well. In the backdrop of the population of the state at present, against the total requirement of around 7,000 Allopathic doctors as IPHS norms, the state has only about 3,200 doctors. Similarly, against the requirement of 25,000 nursing staff, we have only about 17,000 nurses. My Government will attempt to close these gaps in a phased manner through a number of steps, starting with creation of a proper database of all categories of doctors, nurses and para medics, and by deploying them in a rational manner, depending on disciplines and skill sets. Steps will be taken to strengthen existing medical colleges and establish more medical colleges in order to increase the number of doctors in the state. My Government will also take steps to create cadre of specialist doctors with suitable pay scales, including openings for lateral entries, in order to attract and retain talent.

Nursing and para medics : My Government will take steps to establish more institutes to train nurses, technicians and para medical staff. Steps will be taken to strengthen nursing governance systems to improve regulation and nursing education quality management. Similarly, my Government will take steps towards planned expansion of allied technical skills - radiographers, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists, pharmacists, optometrists, etc. My Government will also strive

to make provision for multi-skilling with different skill sets so that the services of these paramedics, when posted in peripheral hospitals, are more efficiently utilized.

Requirement of the rural areas : For catering to the requirement of the underserved rural areas, steps will be taken to extend financial and non-financial incentives including rotational rural postings dovetailed with clear and transparent career progression guidelines with weightages for rural postings.

Maternal and Child Health : Maternal and child health remains one of the highest priorities of my Government. Although many steps have been initiated in the past, the desired outcome remains distant. Lowering MMR and IMR will be the topmost priority of my Government. Similarly, child and adolescent health will be another priority area with 100% coverage under Universal Immunization Programme.

Cancer treatment : Incidence of cancer cases is highest in the NE region compared to the rest of the country. A 200-bedded Cancer Hospital is being established at GMCH, Guwahati equipped with PET-CT Scan Machine, Linear Accelerator, Cyclotron and the Cobalt 60 machine. My Government will take steps to complete this important institution in the shortest possible time to make it functional. My Government will take steps to establish more cancer hospitals in the state. It is heartening to note that the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India is considering to develop Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute,

Guwahati, as a Centre of Excellence for Cancer Treatment, Education & Research for NE Region. This will benefit the people of the North Eastern states.

New AIIMS : Establishment of AIIMS at Changsari, Kamrup is a welcome decision of the Government of India. The foundation stone has been laid recently. My Government will take steps to coordinate the construction works and other establishment with the Government of India so that it is completed within the stipulated time frame.

Free drugs and diagnostics : The endeavor of my Government is to provide universal access to a progressively wide array of free drugs and diagnostics. Many initiatives are in the offing in this regard. A new corporation in the name and style Assam Medical Service Corporation Ltd. has been setup recently with the mandate to procure all medicines and related items required for the entire state in a centralized, transparent and cost effective manner. My Government will take steps to complete all statutory provisions so that it starts functioning at an early date on the lines of similar corporations in other states. Further, steps will be taken to provide health insurance to all economically backward people.

Vector Borne Diseases : Our state is prone to many vector borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis, etc. My Government will accord top priority to effectively combat these diseases by keeping strict vigil, creating awareness amongst the focused population and by making sufficient provision for medicines and other required items.

Utilizing full potential of Ayush : My Government will take measures to utilize the full potential of Ayush system of medicine so that they are dovetailed seamlessly in the overall gamut of health care delivery.

Making the Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 operational : The rules under Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 (Central Act) will be framed at the earliest for a better and uniform system of Registration and Regulation of Clinical Establishments which in turn will benefit the patients.

Emergency Care and Disaster preparedness forms the hallmark of services in the health care. The existing ambulance facilities will be upgraded so that these services are well equipped and available round the clock in every nook and corner of the state.

Labour & Employment

My Government envisions to ensure strict implementation of the Minimum Wages Act; exploring the scope of extending social security coverage like life insurance, health insurance, etc. to the working class of Assam; setting up mechanisms to ensure regular skill development among the labour class in the state; examining the possibility of making EPF mandatory in the state.

Further, the vision includes examining the possibility of introducing pension schemes for farmers and those who are engaged in unorganized sector and meet the applicable criteria.

Sports & Youth development

Skill development in a big way will be a major initiative of my Government for harnessing the demographic dividend of a young population and providing the means of gainful employment to our youth.

My Government will promote "**sports as a way of life**" among the youth of Assam; it will detect the sporting talent among our young generation and help them grow into becoming successful sports persons who will bring laurels to the state and the country in state-, national-, and international-level competitive sporting events.

The vision of my Government includes: improving the facilities of sports infrastructure in the schools and colleges of the State in a phased manner; engaging professional trainers for young and enterprising sports talents; constituting a specialized talent search team to spot the budding talents; promoting the players for participation in the prestigious tournaments of the country; planning for better coaching of the promising young players from the State; conducting coaching and tournaments in traditional sports; developing appropriate scheme for promotion of sports and physical education among women; promoting and popularising yaga practices among the people of the state.

My Government will endeavour to organize traditional festivals as sports-oriented tourism events during "Bhogali Bihu",

etc. with the help of the Tourism Deptt.; finalizing a scheme for recognition of sportspersons by giving them State Awards; providing employment opportunities to sportspersons through sports quota in Govt. jobs;

My Government will review the State Sports Policy, 2011 and align the same with its new vision. The existing Sports Pension Scheme will also be reviewed. Celebration of the Abhiruchi Sports Day will be observed, in addition to State Sports Day, in memory of Late Radha Govinda Barua, a prominent sports personality of the State, being celebrated on 17th October. It is proposed to take-up adventurous activities under the Centre of Excellence for Mountaineering and Adventurism, Guwahati to attract the youths of the State into the domain of Adventure Sports. CM's Football Cup competition will be conducted at Sub-Divisional, Cluster, Zonal and State levels, to bring out football talents from GP level onwards to State level and also promote the game of football by involving large numbers of players and spectators. The works of the extension of roof over the galleries of Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium, Sarusajai Sports Complex will be completed, keeping in view the holding of league matches of FIFA World Cup U-17 in 2017 at Guwahati. The works of the multi-storied building (NCC & Yuva Bhawan) at Paltanbazar, Guwahati will be completed to cater to the needs of accommodation of NCC Officers and youth coming from different places of the State to Guwahati.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

My Government's vision to comprehensively deal with the welfare needs of the various vulnerable sections of the society is outlined below :

Tribal Welfare : Identifying a structured and time-bound result-oriented plan for development of various tribes. Identifying talented tribal youth from the state for their mentoring in education, vocational training and development of entrepreneurial skills. Granting recognition to the various tribes in the state and providing facilities for their development.

Taking up with the Central Government for providing ST status to the six communities of Assam, ensuring that the provisions for the existing ST communities of Assam are not affected.

Strengthening Tribal Autonomous Councils and examining the scope of distributing funds as per percentage of population and providing one-time grant building their secretariats. Providing grant to the BTC with the help of the Central Government. Helping the NC Hills and the Karbi Anglong district Councils in taking up developmental works.

Religious Minorities' Welfare Protecting socio-economic and political identity of bonafide Indian Muslims including the indigenous Assamese Muslims like Goriya, Moriya, Desi, Jaloah, Maimol. Conducting academic research on their identity, language and culture.

Resolving the issues of the Assam Board of Wakfs and looking at the alleged gross anomalies pertaining to revenue collection.

Constructing the Ajan Pir Kalakshetra (on the lines of Srimanta Sankardev Kalashetra) to showcase the rich socio-religious Islamic culture in Assam.

Implementing a special mission to strengthen girls' education in Char Chapori areas. Encouraging skill-based education in keeping with the capability of Char Chapori people.

The contribution of the Christian community in terms of culture and development will be recognised by instituting academic research.

The development of Buddhist culture and way of life will be given priority. Buddhist tourist circuit will be made an essential part of Assam tourism.

Tea Community Welfare Effective implementation of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951; incorporating the necessary changes in it after consulting with experts and stakeholders. Securing the future of tea plantation workers by covering him/her under Employee's Provident Fund scheme. Providing educational facilities at all levels with financial incentives and physical infrastructure for social uplift of tea community. Providing microfinance to the young tea workers and youth from tea

community families. Encouraging entrepreneurship and self-employment through vocational training.

Effectively intervening in the current setup to ensure that tea garden workers get their due minimum wages, including those labourers working under the ATC. Ensuring individual electric meter to every household in tea gardens.

Women's Empowerment

Revamping the State Women Commission and opening its centres in other parts of the state. Incorporating gender budgeting as an essential component in the state budget. Implementing strictly the laws against female foeticide. Promoting **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** Abhiyan. Encouraging women associations to manage agricultural, livestock and micro-enterprise sectors. Assisting women's SHGs to benefit from PMMY. Carrying out extensive awareness programmes for girls and women against illegal trafficking and introducing strict laws to punish traffickers. Improving service condition and monthly income to the Asha and Aanganwadi workers and other supervising workers under National Health Mission and other government missions.

Child Development

Establishing creches in the state, especially in tea gardens of Barak and Brahmaputra valleys. Running state-wide

campaigns for child nutrition and immunization. Reviewing syllabi of primary schools and incorporating sports, fun activities as a part of core education.

Differently Abled Citizens' Welfare

Providing education as well as employment/self-employment opportunities to the differently abled citizens of Assam. Making government buildings, railway stations and other public spaces differently-abled-friendly in terms of access. It will be our endeavour to make public institutions, colleges and universities compatible for differently abled people in a phased manner.

Gorkhas' Welfare

Allocating appropriate funds to Gorkha Development Council according to population ratio in Assam. Initiating a Dairy Movement in Assam on a large scale as one of the chief occupations of the Gorkhas is cattle rearing. It will be endeavoured to see that the Gorkha community is adequately represented in the statutory bodies of Assam.

Adivasis Welfare

Ensuring wage increment of Adivasi workers as per Government rules and regulations. Setting up Adivasi guest house for students and medical purpose. Upgrading of LP schools to ME schools and High Schools in adivasi areas.

Senior Citizens' Welfare

Launchig a special programme for utilizing the experience and expertise of senior citizens. Developing a comprehensive welfare programme for healthcare, shelter and security of senior citizens.

Cultural affairs

My Government's vision for development of our local languages and culture includes: documenting and archiving the indigenous cultural and traditional art forms of the state; nurturing the mobile theatre groups through an institutional mechanism; strengthening the Jyoti Chitraban Institute; setting up art and cultural complexes similar to Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Barak vallaey and other parts of the state; establishing Assam Study centres in select universities all over India; supporting Axom Sahitya Sabha and other ethnic literary organizations in the state; instituting the annual "Axom Bhushan" award for outstanding achievement in the field of art, film, theatre, sports, journalism, social work, etc.; promoting greater uses of local language scripts in computer applications; preserving and promoting the satriya school of music and dance; and other such efforts to promote Axomiya culture and local languages and traditions.

Revenue administration & land reforms

My Government's vision for revenue administration and land reforms would, inter-alia, include: facilitating land reforms;

updating land records by using modern technology; removing encroachments from and protecting all lands - forests, religious institutions, tribal belts and blocks, wastelands, grazing reserves; using latest technology of remote sensing and satellite imagery to prepare land-use maps; providing land to the landless tea community people for their permanent settlement. My Government will secure the inter-state boundaries amicably with the neighbouring states.

Administration

My Government will streamline and tone up its administrative set-up and will harness the modern technology and IT tools for making the administration effective and efficient in delivering on our policies and programmes.

My Government is committed to providing a clean and responsive administration. Reforms will be carried out in the APSC set-up so as to restore the confidence of the people in this very important institution. The unauthorised and illegal check gates shall not be allowed to operate anywhere in the State.

My Government has decided to remove the requirement of interviews in recruitment for Grade III and Grade IV jobs in the State Government where the personality test is not essential.

Information and public relations (IPR) set up shall be optimally utilized to maintain positive and constructive relations with all stakeholders, including the public at large and the media fraternity in particular, **in the spirit of popular democracy**. My

Government will ensure the rights and privileges of this 4th pillar of democracy, and will work hand in hand with them for speedy development of the state and resolving burning problems.

Finance

Though the budget size has increased several folds year after year without sanctity of keeping the commitment in flow of resources, the state of affairs of State Finances is alarming. The revenue receipts of the State Government have not kept pace with the ever-increasing bills of salary, pension and other non-plan expenditure. This has put enormous stress on the state exchequer and virtually no monies are available for State Plan. It has been noticed that the State is witnessing serious financial crisis and is not in a position to satisfy its budgetary demands and can barely meet its basic commitments like salaries, pension, etc. There is also a substantial amount of committed liabilities. My Government has, therefore, decided to pull up the socks and is prepared to take tough decisions to discipline the state fiscal situation and instil confidence in the system for smooth implementation of developmental programmes in the State.

The share of central taxes has doubled almost during the last five years including that of additional ten per cent in the devolution from 2014-15 onwards, but the source of worry centres on the State's own resources. Though there is a reasonable increase in collection of VAT, the trend of revenue generated from Excise, Transport, Forest, and Mines and Minerals during

the last five years has been disturbing. My Government's vision includes augmenting the sources of state finances wherever possible and finding avenues for internal generation of revenue. It has identified areas such as revamping excise policy, plugging loopholes and arresting leakages; we shall embark on this in a mission mode to mop up the revenues.

My Government is determined to ensure "near-zero human interface" in revenue earning departments through end-to-end IT applications with state-of-the-art technology. This will ensure real time reporting of the revenue collection and seamless system of integration of activities of all revenue earning departments and help in arresting leakages.

In line with Hon'ble PM's policy of getting rid of obsolete or archaic laws, my Government has recognised the necessity of bringing New Treasury Rules in the era of IT-enabled banking and accounting system and modern Treasury practices. The existing Rules belong to the pre-independence era and enacted in the year 1937. My Government would very soon come up with New Treasury Rules which would enable the State Government to streamline the finance and accounting procedures and integration with Accountant General and Banks dealing with Government business.

My Government is serious about augmenting additional resources through Externally Aided Projects not only from World Bank, ADB and JICA, but also from new sources such as BRICS Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

In order to prepare sound project proposals which would not only stimulate growth and development of the State, but also meet the objectives of these funding agencies, my Government will take help of professional institutions and the Ministry of Finance in the Govt. of India in a very proactive manner with the help of the State Finance Department to facilitate preparation of project proposals by the respective departments.

My Government is also keen to strengthen the public finance management in the state comprehensively and would implement a project called, **ASPIRe** (**A**ssam **S**tate **P**ublic finance **I**nstitutional **R**eforms) with the technical assistance of the World Bank.

While my Government would effectively coordinate with the concerned Central Ministries for higher allocations and timely release of funds to the State, focussed, coordinated and concerted efforts would be made to increase internal revenue generation to restore the past glory of the state to its pre-independence days as one of the first 5 states. This is aimed at, through an innovative programme called, **ReSTART Assam** (**R**estructuring **S**ystems and **T**echnology for **A**ugmenting **R**esources for **T**ransformed **A**ssam).

Hon'ble Members, I have placed before you the vision of my Government. Successful implementation of these policies and programmes would require your collective wisdom, experience and learning. On this auspicious day, I sincerely

remember and pay my deep tribute to our martyrs who have sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of the nation. I do hope that the House will rise unitedly remembering the traditional teaching - "**United we stand, divided we fall**". It is, therefore, my sincere appeal to you all to unitedly come forward to have a positive bearing on the deliberations of this House, and bring the declaration of "*Sab kaa saath, sab kaa vikaas*" to Assam.

Joi Aie Axom

Bharat Mata Ki Jai

Jai Hind.