



**Address by  
Shri Gulab Chand Kataria  
Hon'ble Governor of Assam**



**15<sup>th</sup> Assam Legislative Assembly  
10<sup>th</sup> March, Budget Session, 2023**

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

आपोनालोक आताइलोईके नमस्कार जनाईसू। एटा नतुन वित्तीय बसरर  
आरंभनिर एई शुभ मुहूर्तत मोई आपोनालोकक शुभेच्छा जोनाइसू।

1. Today, I rise to speak before you in the beginning of the Budget Session of 2023-24. On this occasion let me begin by highlighting some important developments that my government has initiated in recent times to bring Assam to the path of resurgence. Assam is in the midst of great transformation. My government, with blessings from the people of Assam and guidance from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has scripted a new journey of unprecedented peace, progress and development. For many years, major constraints holding back development in the state were inadequate infrastructure and investment. But due to sustained efforts of my government, there is an incredible change in the state today. There is new confidence, hope and energy among the people, which give a paradigm shift in the development journey of the state.
2. Before I get into details, I consider it my privilege to highlight a snapshot of the achievements of my government in the cultural arena. Two achievements, both related to our cultural history, have stood out from the rest and have helped establish our heritage and culture on a higher pedestal. First, I would like to highlight the event of Lachit

Divas organised in this year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the event celebrated in the National Capital has generated lot of awareness about Lachit Barphukan, the legendary military hero of Ahom kingdom. This was also a splendid opportunity to carve a niche for the Ahom rule on the international historical map.

3. Lachit Barphukan, the legendary general of Ahom king for his patriotism and gallantry has remained a source of inspiration for generations. He gave a crushing defeat to the invading Mughals, which saved this land from being subjugated to the invaders. Significantly, 2022 was the 400<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of this Military General and my government in its bid to pay honour to this legendary general celebrated the event with a series of programmes in New Delhi. This 3 day programme was attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister of Government of India. It is also a matter of pride that Assam has made an emphatic entry into the Guinness World Records for its momentous feat on the Largest Online Photo Album of Handwritten Notes category. The record is made for having received 42.94 lakhs writeups on Lachit Barphukan. In this connection Certificate of Record has been handed to my government by the Guinness World Records Limited, UK on 9th March 2023.
4. My government is fast moving ahead in creating a resurgent Assam in the national landscape. Our endeavours find a major impetus with a number of landmark achievements, notable among them is the successful march of Charaideo Maidams to the coveted UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Maidams are the mound burial system of Ahom

dynasty where the mortal remains of Ahom Kings and members of the royal family were laid to rest. It is a matter of pride and jubilation that the Charaideo maidams, which was India's sole nomination this year, have met all technical requirements of the UNESCO Secretariat. For this remarkable feat, on behalf of the Government of Assam and people of the state, I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the nomination of Charaideo maidams to UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.

5. Bihu is the lifeline of Assam. For taking Assam's pride Bihu to the global landscape and register it in the Guinness World Records, a mega Bihu dance performance by more than 10,000 performers will be held on April 14 at Sarusajai Sports Complex. Hon'ble Prime Minister has already given consent to witness this magnificent event.
6. This year, the state has also made many significant strides in every sector of economy, including connectivity and infrastructure. In the Financial Year 2021-22, the state of Assam has for the first time crossed the Rs. 1 Lakh Cr. mark in budget expenditure. For 2022-23 fiscal, total budget provision for the consolidated fund was made for a total amount of Rs.1,27,793 Cr. Against this budget provision, the Govt. of Assam till February' 2023 has incurred expenditure for a total amount of Rs. 1,03,000 Cr, which shows my government has already crossed the Rs. 1 Lakh Cr. mark in budget expenditure much ahead of this fiscal coming to an end. Going by this trend this year the total budget of my government will be touching around Rs. 1,20,000 Cr., which is a reflection of the growth of the State.

7. **Meanwhile the capital expenditure in the state has increased by more than 150% in the last five years from Rs 7946 Cr. in the FY 2017- 18 to Rs 20,229 Cr. as per the pre actual figure of FY 2021-22.**
8. **In this financial year in a milestone achievement, my government has received Letters of Permission for starting 3 new Medical colleges at Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Nagaon with increase of intake by 300 MBBS seats. While the fourth one at Nalbari is also expected to get permission soon. This will increase MBBS seats up to 1500. This is a momentous step towards improving medical education and doctors' availability in the state, especially considering the fact that since independence, there were only three medical colleges in Assam till 2009 with an annual intake of 326 MBBS students.**
9. **My government, unleashing a major boost to farmers' income, had rolled out paddy procurement drive in 2021-22 with Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 1940 per quintal for all farmers. This benefited 43,978 nos. farmers in the State and they earned around Rs. 1097 crore. Last year, the state procured 5.65 Lakh MT of paddy, of which only 1 (one) Lakh MT was procured by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This year MSP has been increased to Rs. 2040 per quintal. My government has been able to procure 3.0 lakhs MT of paddy from farmers as on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, with 33,249 farmers having earned Rs. 612 crores selling their produce in 198 Paddy procurement centres across the state. My Government is hopeful of reaching the procurement target of 10 Lakh MT of paddy by the end of the current Kharif Marketing season on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

10. With sustained efforts of my government, the financial position of the state has improved considerably. As per estimate, for the year 2022-23, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State at current prices is estimated to reach 5 Lakh Crore as against Rs. 3,92,070.98 Crore in 2021-22. My government is confident of scripting this new history this year with GSDP crossing Rs. 5.00 L Cr. The per capita income of the State in terms of GSDP at current prices is estimated at Rs. 1,22,954 for the year 2022-23 as compared to Rs.1,11,162 in 2021-22 which is an increase of 10.61 percent.
11. My government has implemented a number of reform initiatives in finance sector for ensuring transparency and accountability which has played a key role in significant growth of revenue collection. During the current FY 2022-23 upto November 2022, an amount of Rs.12,747.53 Cr. (GST + Non-GST) has been collected as compared to Rs. 10,141.09 Cr. in the corresponding period of last F.Y. 2021-22 showing a growth rate of 25.70%. Today our own revenue has increased to Rs. 3,500 Cr per month with devolution, which is sufficient to pay salary to government employees from its own source. This is indeed a remarkable achievement of my government.
12. From May 2021 onwards, my Government has steadily progressed on an ambitious reform agenda focusing on policy and institutional reforms harmonised with investments in related sectors. The reform agenda aspires to boost trade, increase investments, generate jobs and to increase resilience to frequent and severe climate related shocks. This has also generated a renewed thrust in the EAP sector in the state showing considerable achievements in 2022.

13. Presently, there are 15 ongoing EAPs with a total involvement of Rs 31,126 Crs in various stages of execution. These projects are under implementation in sectors like Finance, Transport, Public Service delivery, Road & Bridge Infrastructure, Agriculture, Environment & Forest, Water Supply & Sewerage, Power, Skill development etc. Out of these ongoing projects, during 2022, Loan Agreements have been signed for 4 projects involving a project cost of Rs 13,862 Crs.
14. In addition there are 11 pipeline EAPs with an estimated amount of Rs 31,212 Cr. approved for implementation by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is noteworthy that during 2022 itself, out of these pipeline EAPs 5 projects totalling an estimated cost of Rs 13,572 Crs have been approved by Government of India, reflecting the efforts made by the Government to pursue developmental projects and the support received from the Government of India for the State's welfare.
15. Till a few years ago, violence and insurgency were the order of the day in the state. But with committed efforts of the Central Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for bringing lasting peace in Assam and the Northeast, today all major insurgent groups have either laid down arms or joined the dialogue process. Major peace accords were signed with insurgent groups, which include the Karbi Peace Accord, and the Adivasi Peace Accord. As a result of which large number of insurgent cadres belonging to these groups have since joined the mainstream after their outfits were disbanded. As a result of peace and normalcy fast coming to the

state, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 which was in force for last three decades was withdrawn from 24 districts and one sub-division of Assam w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

16. Today the people of Assam are also standing up to violence and turning their energy and skills to build a better, stronger, safer, productive and stable society. The culture of Bandhs and Dharnas are now a thing of the past. There is a marked improvement in law & order situation in the state. This has contributed to the plummeting rate of average crime rate per lakh of population which stood 384 during the last year and has significantly come down to 202 by the end of December 2022.
17. With the improvement in the law and order situation in the State, tourism sector has witnessed significant growth and attention during 2022-23. While the sector recorded 511% growth in respect of domestic tourists, it is 763% in respect of foreign tourist in-terms of tourist inflow in 2022-23 (January 2023) compared to the last year's inflow. New Tourism Policy 2022 has been prepared to promote the sector further. To promote private investments in the tourism sector in places like Kaziranga, Manas etc., government has given nod to sign agreement for mega hospitality projects with major hospitality groups. Assam is one of the few states in India to grant industry status to tourism.
18. In its bid to provide service to the poor and the marginalised, my government has initiated a number of citizen-centric services. With an aim to ensure quality, time bound and transparent citizen centric land related service



**2023**

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