



# FINER

News & Views



## BUDGET 2017-18



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RAILWAY BUDGET 2017-18**



**R. K. More**  
Member  
FINER News & Views

**R. K. More**  
Treasurer, FINER



**Indrani Chaudhury**  
Member  
FINER News & Views

**Indrani Chaudhury**  
Dy. Director General  
FINER

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# President's Desk

Every year as the Budget nears, speculation surrounding it also abounds. Will taxes be raised or lowered? Will any new government saving scheme be announced? While last year's budget focused a lot on the healthcare, education and social sectors, Budget 2017 is being seen as one that will bring personal finance to the centre stage. The Budget this time mainly focuses on ten sectors – farming, rural population, the youth, the poor and underprivileged, healthcare, infrastructure, finance for stronger institutions, speedy accountability, public services, prudent fiscal management and tax administration for the honest. The budget contains three major reforms. Firstly, presentation of the Budget was preponed to 1st February to enable the ministries to operationalise all activities from the commencement of the financial year. Secondly, merger of the Railway Budget with the General Budget was aimed at bringing the railways to the centre stage of government's fiscal policy. Thirdly, it seeks to remove plan and non-plan classification of expenditure to facilitate a holistic view of allocations for sectors and ministries.

This Budget will tremendously strengthen the economic muscle of the country. It is directionally correct, fiscally prudent and will strengthen the governance fabric of the nation. The finance minister has a vision for the economy, which alongside economic growth, also ensures economic justice. Growth without inclusion can be a liability for the country.

Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma presented a Rs 2,349.79 crore deficit Budget for the state for 2017-18 financial year and merged the Plan and non-Plan heads. The Assam Budget 2017-18 has laid great emphasis on all the sectors, specially the infrastructure and tourism sectors, which is a good sign for the overall impact on the industrial sector. Moreover, emphasis on healthcare and education sectors makes the budget a wholesome package for all sections of people. The budget is also an attempt to consolidate the fiscal deficit. We can see a significant boost to investment in the rural areas, fillip to corporations in the MSME sector and continued focus on widening the tax base and creating a more tax-compliant economy in the State.

To sum it up, the Budget was growth and development oriented.

While the Union Budget and Assam Budget 2017-18 are good on intent, its implementation in the year ahead will be key, something which all sectors and stakeholders stand to benefit in due course.

With Regards

**Pabitra Buragohain**

President

FINER





## LIVE viewing of the **UNION BUDGET 2017-18**

On 1st Feb, 2017  
Hotel Pragati Manor, G.S Road, Guwahati





## NORTH EAST FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR GANGTOK, SIKKIM

**M**inistry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India in association Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), had organized the North East Food Processing and Technology Seminar in Gangtok, Sikkim, on 21st of January, 2017 at Hotel Delliso Abode, Gangtok, Sikkim.

The main objective of the Seminar was to disseminate appropriate information to the prospective investors and investment partners from the region regarding Government of India's thrust area and to emphasize on New products and processes & and also R&D findings.

We are very happy to inform you that Shri P.T. Bhutia, Principal Director, Department of Horticulture, Government of Sikkim was the Chief Guest for the event and Shri T.D. Bhutia, Deputy Secretary, Commerce & Industry, Government of Sikkim had presided over as the Guest of Honor for the seminar. Shri Pabitra Buragohain, President, FINER, welcomed the guest and the dignitaries present for the seminar.

The Seminar revolved around presentations and interactive panel discussions on the various aspects of the importance of development of Food processing initiative and challenges. The main topics that were discussed during the seminar was Agricultural Marketing and its prospective in the context of North East Region and the role of different market committees viz APMC by Shri Jiwan Sharma, General Manager, SIMFED, Government of Sikkim. Smt. Sujata Jena, Associate Professor, College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology spoke about R & D findings, packaging and flavor of incredible Sikkim in Food Processing. An inspiring success story is also being highlighted by a local entrepreneur, Shri Shishir Kharka, Jaivik, Sikkim. The seminar was followed by a one-to-one interaction between department officials, Industry captains and Participants from the State.

The Seminar ended with summing up of the session followed by Vote of Thanks by Smt. Indrani Chaudhury, Deputy Director General, FINER







## NORTH EAST FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

**M**inistry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India in association Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), had organized the North East Food Processing and Technology Seminar in Shillong, Meghalaya on 13th of February 2017 at State Central Library, Secretariat Hills, Shillong.

The main objective of the Seminar was to disseminate appropriate information to the prospective investors and investment partners from the region regarding Government of India's thrust area and to emphasize on New products and processes & and also R&D findings.

We are very happy to inform you that Shri M. Iboyaima Meitei, Adviser (Horti), Agriculture and Allied Sector, North Eastern Council, Government of India was the Chief Guest for the event and Smt. B.M Shylla, Managing Director, Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Government of Meghalaya had presided over as the Guest of Honor for the seminar. Shri Samrat Deka, Member, Food Processing and Agriculture Committee, FINER, welcomed the guest and the dignitaries present for the seminar.

The Seminar revolved around presentations and interactive panel discussions on the various aspects of the importance of development of Food processing initiative and challenges. The main topics that were discussed during the seminar was Horticulture Scenario in Meghalaya and its prospects viz Food Processing by Smt. K. Lyndog, Deputy Director, Department of Horticulture, Government of Meghalaya. Shri Pynkynmawlang Rymmaai, Branch Manager, NEDFI, Shillong, spoke about Scope of Food Processing Industry in the State. An inspiring success story is also being highlighted by a local entrepreneur, Smt. Phikaralin Wanshong from M/s Kara's Food Preservation, Shillong. Smt. M.B. Roy, Director, Commerce & Industry, Government of Meghalaya has also graced the occasion. The seminar was followed by a one-to-one interaction between department officials, Industry captains and Participants from the State.

The Seminar ended with summing up of the session followed by Vote of Thanks by Smt. Indrani Chaudhury, Deputy Director General, FINER.





## NORTH EAST FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR Agartala, Tripura

28th January, 2017

We are pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India in association Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), had organized the North East Food Processing and Technology Seminar in Agartala, Tripura, on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Hotel Sonar Tori.

The main objective of the Seminar was to disseminate appropriate information to the prospective investors and investment partners from the region regarding Government of India's thrust area and to emphasize on New products and processes & also R&D findings.

Shri D.P.Sarkar, Director, Agriculture, Horticulture & soil Conservation, Govt. of Tripura was the Chief Guest for the seminar. Shri Amrit Deorah Member, Food Processing and Agriculture Committee, FINER, welcomed the guest and the dignitaries present for the seminar.

The Seminar revolved around presentations and interactive panel discussions on the various aspects of the importance of development of Food processing initiative and challenges. The main topics that were discussed during the seminar was Processing and value add. of Fruit Crops and Vegetables Crops by Dr. Sukhen Ch. Das, Assistant Prof. (Horticulture) College of Agriculture. Dr. Ezekiel Reang, Assistant professor (Horticulture) College of Agriculture, spoke about the New emerging technologies in post harvest management and processing of Horticulture crops. An inspiring success story is also being highlighted by a local entrepreneur, Shri Bhabes Debnath, Annda Spice Industries. The seminar was followed by a one-to-one interaction between department officials, Industry captains and Participants from the State.



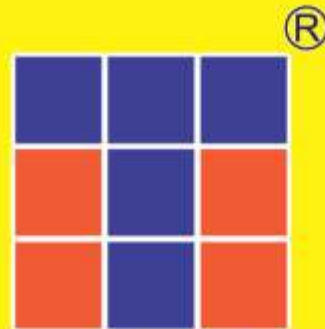


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# Overview and Live Showcase of GST PORTAL

Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) has organized the Workshop on Goods & Service Tax (GST) in association with Tax Bar Association, Guwahati and ICAI, Guwahati Branch, under Commissioner of Taxes, Government of Assam on 10th January, 2017 at 3 pm in NEDFI Convention Centre, Guwahati. The Chief Guest of the program was Shri Bhagwan K. Ghadge Patil, Joint Commissioner, Economic Intelligence Unit, who has taken out his valuable time and came from Delhi to grace the occasion.

The workshop revolved around the issues like overview of Registration process, provision and processes under GST, Migration of Existing Tax payers, Invoice upload and return filing. These issues were addressed by GSTN Experts who showed, how to organize and go about working in GST regime. There was also discussion on GSTR, and other return and overview of GST Payment Process. Shri Patil also gave a very informative presentation and showed live showcase of GST Portal.

Senior Officials from the Department of Taxes, Government of Assam along with the Captains of Industries & Commerce and Financial experts of the North East Region also graced the occasion. The workshop was a resounding success with people having to stand inside the hall due to lack of seats.

A very active interactive session on different issues related to taxes was also held during the meeting.





# KEY FEATURES OF UNION BUDGET 2017-18

## INTRODUCTION



- In the last two and half years administration has moved from discretionary, favouritism based to system and transparency based
- Inflation brought under control. CPI-based inflation declined from 6% in July 2016 to 3.4% in December, 2016
- Economy has moved on a high growth path. India's Current Account Deficit declined from about 1% of GDP last year to 0.3% of GDP in the first half of 2016-17. FDI grew 36% in H1 2016-17 over H1 2015-16, despite 5% reduction in global FDI inflows. Foreign exchange reserves have reached 361 billion US Dollars as on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2017



- War against black money launched
- Government continued on path of fiscal consolidation, without compromising on public investment.
- The Indian economy has been robust to mild shocks and IMF forecasts, India to be one of the fastest growing major economies in 2017

## CHALLENGES IN 2017-18



- World economy faces considerable uncertainty, in the aftermath of major economic and political developments during the last year
- The US Federal Reserve's , intention to increase policy rates in 2017, may lead to lower capital inflows and higher outflows from the emerging economies
- Uncertainty around commodity prices, especially that of crude oil, has implications for the fiscal situation of emerging economies
- Signs of retreat from globalisation of goods, services and people, as pressures for protectionism are building up



## TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN LAST YEAR

- Passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill for GST and the progress for its introduction
- Demonetisation of high denomination bank notes
- Enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code; amendment to the RBI Act for inflation targeting; enactment of the *Aadhar* bill for disbursement of financial subsidies and benefits
- Budget 2017-18 contains 3 major reforms. First, presentation of Budget advanced to 1<sup>st</sup> February to enable the Ministries to operationalise all activities from the commencement of the financial year. Second, merger of Railways Budget with General Budget to bring Railways to the centre stage of Government's Fiscal Policy and Third, removal of plan and non-plan classification of expenditure to facilitate a holistic view of allocations for sectors and ministries

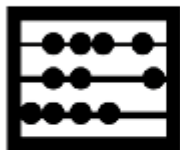
## DEMONITISATION



- Bold and decisive measure to curb tax evasion and parallel economy
- Government's resolve to eliminate corruption, black money, counterfeit currency and terror funding
- Drop in economic activity, if any, to be temporary
- Generate long term benefits including reduced corruption, greater digitisation, increased flow of financial savings and greater formalisation of the economy
- Pace of remonetisation has picked up and will soon reach comfortable levels
- The surplus liquidity in the banking system will lower borrowing costs and increase the access to credit
- Announcements made by the Honourable Prime Minister on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2016 focusing on housing for the poor; relief to farmers; credit support to MSMEs; encouragement to digital transactions; assistance to pregnant women and senior citizens; and priority to dalits, tribals, backward classes and women under the Mudra Yojana, address key concerns of our economy



## ROADMAP & PRIORITIES



- Agenda for 2017-18 is : “Transform, Energise and Clean India” – TEC India
- TEC India seeks to
  - Transform the quality of governance and quality of life of our people;
  - Energise various sections of society, especially the youth and the vulnerable, and enable them to unleash their true potential; and
  - Clean the country from the evils of corruption, black money and non-transparent political funding
- Ten distinct themes to foster this broad agenda:
  - **Farmers** : committed to double the income in 5 years;
  - **Rural Population** : providing employment & basic infrastructure;
  - **Youth** : energising them through education, skills and jobs;
  - **The Poor and the Underprivileged** : strengthening the systems of social security, health care and affordable housing;
  - **Infrastructure**: for efficiency, productivity and quality of life;
  - **Financial Sector** : growth & stability by stronger institutions;
  - **Digital Economy** : for speed, accountability and transparency;
  - **Public Service** : effective governance and efficient service delivery through people’s participation;
  - **Prudent Fiscal Management**: to ensure optimal deployment of resources and preserve fiscal stability;
  - **Tax Administration**: honouring the honest.

## FARMERS



- Target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of ₹ 10 lakh crores
- Farmers will also benefit from 60 days’ interest waiver announced on 31 Dec 2016
- To ensure flow of credit to small farmers, Government to support NABARD for computerisation and integration of all 63,000 functional Primary Agriculture Credit Societies with the Core Banking System of District Central Cooperative Banks. This will be done in 3 years at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,900 crores



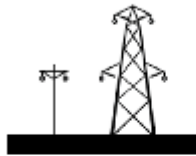
- Coverage under Fasal Bima Yojana scheme will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19 for which a budget provision of ₹ 9000 crore has been made
- New mini labs in *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country for soil sample testing
- As announced by the Honourable Prime Minister, the Long Term Irrigation Fund already set up in NABARD to be augmented by 100% to take the total corpus of this Fund to ₹ 40,000 crores.
- Dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund in NABARD to achieve 'per drop more crop' with an initial corpus of ₹ 5,000 crores
- Coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) to be expanded from 250 markets to 585 APMCs. Assistance up to ₹ 75 lakhs will be provided to every e-NAM
- A model law on contract farming to be prepared and circulated among the States for adoption
- Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund to be set up in NABARD with a corpus of ₹ 2000 crores and will be increased to ₹ 8000 crores over 3 years

#### RURAL POPULATION



- Over ₹ 3 lakh crores spent in rural areas every year, for rural poor from Central Budget, State Budgets, Bank linkage for self-help groups, etc
- Aim to bring one crore households out of poverty and to make 50,000 Gram Panchayats poverty free by 2019, the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Gandhiji
- Against target of 5 lakh farm ponds under MGNREGA, 10 lakh farm ponds would be completed by March 2017. During 2017-18, another 5 lakh farm ponds will be taken up
- Women participation in MGNREGA has increased to 55% from less than 48%
- MGNREGA allocation to be the highest ever at ₹ 48,000 crores in 2017-18.





- Pace of construction of PMGSY roads accelerated to 133 km roads per day in 2016-17, against an avg. of 73 km during 2011-2014
- Government has taken up the task of connecting habitations with more than 100 persons in left wing extremism affected Blocks under PMGSY. All such habitations are expected to be covered by 2019 and the allocation for PMGSY, including the State's Share is ₹ 27,000 crores in 2017-18
- Allocation for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin increased from ₹ 15,000 crores in BE 2016-17 to ₹ 23,000 crores in 2017-18 with a target to complete 1 crore houses by 2019 for the houseless and those living in kutcha houses.
- Well on our way to achieving 100% village electrification by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.
- Allocation for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program and Credit Support Schemes has been increased three fold
- Sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 42% in Oct 2014 to about 60%. Open Defecation Free villages are now being given priority for piped water supply.
- As part of a sub mission of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), it is proposed to provide safe drinking water to over 28,000 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years.
- For imparting new skills to people in rural areas, mason training will be provided to 5 lakh persons by 2022
- A programme of “human resource reforms for results” will be launched during 2017-18 for human resources development in Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Total allocation for Rural, Agriculture and Allied sectors is ₹ 187223 crores



## YOUTH



- To introduce a system of measuring annual learning outcomes in our schools
- Innovation Fund for Secondary Education proposed to encourage local innovation for ensuring universal access, gender parity and quality improvement to be introduced in 3479 educationally backward districts.



- Good quality higher education institutions to have greater administrative and academic autonomy
- SWAYAM platform, leveraging IT, to be launched with at least 350 online courses. This would enable students to virtually attend courses taught by the best faculty
- National Testing Agency to be set-up as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organisation to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions
- *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras* to be extended to more than 600 districts across the country. 100 India International Skills Centres will be established across the country.
- Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion programme (SANKALP) to be launched at a cost of ₹ 4000 crores. SANKALP will provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth
- Next phase of Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) will also be launched in 2017-18 at a cost of ₹ 2,200 crores
- A scheme for creating employment in the leather and footwear industries along the lines in Textiles Sector to be launched
- Incredible India 2.0 Campaign will be launched across the world to promote tourism and employment.



#### THE POOR AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

- *Mahila Shakti Kendra* will be set up with an allocation of ₹ 500 crores in 14 lakh ICDS *Anganwadi* Centres. This will provide one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition
- Under Maternity Benefit Scheme ₹ 6,000 each will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children
- Affordable housing to be given infrastructure status
- National Housing Bank will refinance individual housing loans of about ₹ 20,000 crore in 2017-18



- Government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018, Measles by 2020 and Tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted
- Action plan has been prepared to reduce IMR from 39 in 2014 to 28 by 2019 and MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 100 by 2018-2020
- To create additional 5,000 Post Graduate seats per annum to ensure adequate availability of specialist doctors to strengthen Secondary and Tertiary levels of health care
- Two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences to be set up in Jharkhand and Gujarat
- To foster a conducive labour environment, legislative reforms will be undertaken to simplify, rationalise and amalgamate the existing labour laws into 4 Codes on (i) wages; (ii) industrial relations; (iii) social security and welfare; and (iv) safety and working conditions.
- Propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices and promote use of generic medicines
- The allocation for Scheduled Castes has been increased by 35% compared to BE 2016-17. The allocation for Scheduled Tribes has been increased to ₹ 31,920 crores and for Minority Affairs to ₹ 4,195 crores
- For senior citizens, *Aadhar* based Smart Cards containing their health details will be introduced

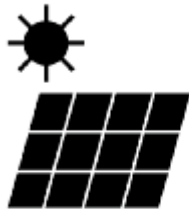


## INFRASTRUCTURE



- For transportation sector as a whole, including rail, roads, shipping, provision of ₹ 2,41,387 crores has been made in 2017-18.
- For 2017-18, the total capital and development expenditure of Railways has been pegged at ₹ 1,31,000 crores. This includes ₹ 55,000 crores provided by the Government
- For passenger safety, a *Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh* will be created with a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years
- Unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge lines will be eliminated by 2020





- In the next 3 years, the throughput is proposed to be enhanced by 10%. This will be done through modernisation and upgradation of identified corridors.
- Railway lines of 3,500 kms will be commissioned in 2017-18. During 2017-18, at least 25 stations are expected to be awarded for station redevelopment.
- 500 stations will be made differently abled friendly by providing lifts and escalators.
- It is proposed to feed about 7,000 stations with solar power in the medium term
- SMS based *Clean My Coach Service* has been started
- 'Coach Mitra', a single window interface, to register all coach related complaints and requirements to be launched
- By 2019, all coaches of Indian Railways will be fitted with bio toilets. Tariffs of Railways would be fixed, taking into consideration costs, quality of service and competition from other forms of transport
- A new Metro Rail Policy will be announced with focus on innovative models of implementation and financing, as well as standardisation and indigenisation of hardware and software
- A new Metro Rail Act will be enacted by rationalising the existing laws. This will facilitate greater private participation and investment in construction and operation.
- In the road sector, Budget allocation for highways increased from ₹ 57,976 crores in BE 2016-17 to ₹ 64,900 crores in 2017-18
- 2,000 kms of coastal connectivity roads have been identified for construction and development
- Total length of roads, including those under PMGSY, built from 2014-15 till the current year is about 1,40,000 kms which is significantly higher than previous three years
- Select airports in Tier 2 cities will be taken up for operation and maintenance in the PPP mode



- By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity on optical fibre will be available in more than 1,50,000 *gram panchayats*, under BharatNet. A DigiGaon initiative will be launched to provide tele-medicine, education and skills through digital technology
- Proposed to set up strategic crude oil reserves at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take our strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT
- Second phase of Solar Park development to be taken up for additional 20,000 MW capacity.
- For creating an eco-system to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing a provision of ₹ 745 crores in 2017-18 in incentive schemes like M-SIPS and EDF.
- A new and restructured Central scheme with a focus on export infrastructure, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) will be launched in 2017-18

#### FINANCIAL SECTOR



- Foreign Investment Promotion Board to be abolished in 2017-18 and further liberalisation of FDI policy is under consideration
- An expert committee will be constituted to study and promote creation of an operational and legal framework to integrate spot market and derivatives market in the agricultural sector, for commodities trading. e- NAM to be an integral part of the framework.
- Bill relating to curtail the menace of illicit deposit schemes will be introduced. A bill relating to resolution of financial firms will be introduced in the current Budget Session of Parliament. This will contribute to stability and resilience of our financial system
- A mechanism to streamline institutional arrangements for resolution of disputes in infrastructure related construction contracts, PPP and public utility contracts will be introduced as an amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
- A Computer Emergency Response Team for our Financial Sector (CERT-Fin) will be established





- Government will put in place a revised mechanism and procedure to ensure time bound listing of identified CPSEs on stock exchanges. The shares of Railway PSEs like IRCTC, IRFC and IRCON will be listed in stock exchanges.
- Propose to create an integrated public sector 'oil major' which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies
- A new ETF with diversified CPSE stocks and other Government holdings will be launched in 2017-18
- In line with the 'Indradhanush' roadmap, ₹ 10,000 crores for recapitalisation of Banks provided in 2017-18
- Lending target under *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana* to be set at ₹ 2.44 lakh crores. Priority will be given to Dalits, Tribals, Backward Classes and Women.

#### DIGITAL ECONOMY



- 125 lakh people have adopted the BHIM app so far. The Government will launch two new schemes to promote the usage of BHIM; these are, Referral Bonus Scheme for individuals and a Cashback Scheme for merchants
- Aadhar Pay, a merchant version of Aadhar Enabled Payment System, will be launched shortly
- A Mission will be set up with a target of 2,500 crore digital transactions for 2017-18 through UPI, USSD, Aadhar Pay, IMP5 and debit cards
- A proposal to mandate all Government receipts through digital means, beyond a prescribed limit, is under consideration
- Banks have targeted to introduce additional 10 lakh new POS terminals by March 2017. They will be encouraged to introduce 20 lakh Aadhar based POS by September 2017
- Proposed to create a Payments Regulatory Board in the Reserve Bank of India by replacing the existing Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems







## PUBLIC SERVICE

- The Government e-market place which is now functional for procurement of goods and services
- To utilise the Head Post Offices as front offices for rendering passport services
- A Centralised Defence Travel System has been developed through which travel tickets can be booked online by our soldiers and officers
- Web based interactive Pension Disbursement System for Defence Pensioners will be established
- To rationalise the number of tribunals and merge tribunals wherever appropriate
- Commemorate both Champaran and Khordha revolts appropriately



## PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Stepped up allocation for Capital expenditure by 25.4% over the previous year
- Total resources being transferred to the States and the Union Territories with Legislatures is ₹ 4.11 lakh crores, against ₹ 3.60 lakh crores in BE 2016-17
- For the first time, a consolidated Outcome Budget, covering all Ministries and Departments, is being laid along with the other Budget documents
- FRBM Committee has recommended 3% fiscal deficit for the next three years, keeping in mind the sustainable debt target and need for public investment, fiscal deficit for 2017-18 is targeted at 3.2% of GDP and Government remains committed to achieve 3% in the following year
- Net market borrowing of Government restricted to ₹ 3.48 lakh crores after buyback in 2017-18, much lower than ₹ 4.25 lakh crores of the previous year
- Revenue Deficit of 2.3% in BE 2016-17 stands reduced to 2.1% in the Revised Estimates. The Revenue Deficit for next year is pegged at 1.9% , against 2% mandated by the FRBM Act



## PROMOTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE SECTOR

- Between 8th November and 30th December 2016, deposits between 2 lakh Rupees and 80 lakh Rupees were made in about 1.09 crore accounts with an average deposit size of ₹ 5.03 lakh. Deposits of more than 80 lakh were made in 1.48 lakh accounts with average deposit size of ₹ 3.31 crores.
- Under the scheme for profit-linked income tax deduction for promotion of affordable housing, carpet area instead of built up area of 30 and 60 Sq.mtr. will be counted.
- The 30 Sq.mtr. limit will apply only in case of municipal limits of 4 metropolitan cities while for the rest of the country including in the peripheral areas of metros, limit of 60 Sq.mtr. will apply
- For builders for whom constructed buildings are stock-in-trade, tax on notional rental income will only apply after one year of the end of the year in which completion certificate is received
- Reduction in the holding period for computing long term capital gains from transfer of immovable property from 3 years to 2 years. Also, the base year for indexation is proposed to be shifted from 1.4.1981 to 1.4.2001 for all classes of assets including immovable property
- For Joint Development Agreement signed for development of property, the liability to pay capital gain tax will arise in the year the project is completed
- Exemption from capital gain tax for persons holding land on 2.6.2014, the date on which the State of Andhra Pradesh was reorganised, and whose land is being pooled for creation of capital city of Andhra Pradesh under the Government scheme



## MEASURES FOR STIMULATING GROWTH



- Concessional withholding rate of 5% charged on interest earned by foreign entities in external commercial borrowings or in bonds and Government securities is extended to 30.6.2020. This benefit is also extended to Rupee Denominated (Masala) Bonds
- For the purpose of carry forward of losses in respect of start-ups, the condition of continuous holding of 51% of voting rights has been relaxed subject to the condition that the holding of the original promoter/promoters continues. Also the profit (linked deduction) exemption available to the start-ups for 3 years out of 5 years is changed to 3 years out of 7 years



- MAT credit is allowed to be carried forward up to a period of 15 years instead of 10 years at present
- In order to make MSME companies more viable, income tax for companies with annual turnover upto ₹ 50 crore is reduced to 25%
- Allowable provision for Non-Performing Asset of Banks increased from 7.5% to 8.5%. Interest taxable on actual receipt instead of accrual basis in respect of NPA accounts of all non-scheduled cooperative banks also to be treated at par with scheduled banks
- Basic customs duty on LNG reduced from 5% to 2.5%

#### PROMOTING DIGITAL ECONOMY



- Under scheme of presumptive income for small and medium tax payers whose turnover is upto 2 crores, the present, 8% of their turnover which is counted as presumptive income is reduced to 6% in respect of turnover which is by non-cash means
- No transaction above ₹ 3 lakh would be permitted in cash subject to certain exceptions
- Miniaturised POS card reader for m-POS (other than mobile phones or tablet computers), micro ATM standards version 1.5.1, Finger Print Readers / Scanners and Iris Scanners and on their parts and components for manufacture of such devices to be exempt from BCD, Excise/CV duty and SAD

#### TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL FUNDING



- Need to cleanse the system of political funding in India
- Maximum amount of cash donation, a political party can receive, will be ₹ 2000/- from one person.
- Political parties will be entitled to receive donations by cheque or digital mode from their donors.
- Amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act to enable the issuance of electoral bonds in accordance with a scheme that the Government of India would frame in this regard.



- Every political party would have to file its return within the time prescribed in accordance with the provision of the Income-tax Act
- Existing exemption to the political parties from payment of income-tax would be available only subject to the fulfilment of these conditions

#### EASE OF DOING BUSINESS



- Scope of domestic transfer pricing restricted to only if one of the entities involved in related party transaction enjoys specified profit-linked deduction
- Threshold limit for audit of business entities who opt for presumptive income scheme increased from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crores. Similarly, the threshold for maintenance of books for individuals and HUF increased from turnover of 10 lakhs to 25 lakhs or income from 1.2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs
- Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Category I & II exempted from indirect transfer provision. Indirect transfer provision shall not apply in case of redemption of shares or interests outside India as a result of or arising out of redemption or sale of investment in India which is chargeable to tax in India



- Commission payable to individual insurance agents exempt from the requirement of TDS subject to their filing a self-declaration that their income is below taxable limit
- Under scheme for presumptive taxation for professionals with receipt upto ₹ 50 lakhs p.a. advance tax can be paid in one instalment instead of four
- Time period for revising a tax return is being reduced to 12 months from completion of financial year, at par with the time period for filing of return. Also the time for completion of scrutiny assessments is being compressed further from 21 months to 18 months for Assessment Year 2018-19 and further to 12 months for Assessment Year 2019-20 and thereafter

#### PERSONAL INCOME-TAX

- Existing rate of taxation for individual assesses between income of ₹2.5 lakhs to 5 lakhs reduced to 5% from the present rate of 10%



- Surcharge of 10% of tax payable on categories of individuals whose annual taxable income is between ₹50 lakhs and ₹ 1 crore
- Simple one-page form to be filed as Income Tax Return for the category of individuals having taxable income upto ₹ 5 lakhs other than business income
- Appeal to all citizens of India to contribute to Nation Building by making a small payment of 5% tax if their income is falling in the lowest slab of 2.5 lakhs to 5 lakhs.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX



- The GST Council has finalised its recommendations on almost all the issues based on consensus on the basis of 9 meetings held
- Preparation of IT system for GST is also on schedule.
- The extensive reach-out efforts to trade and industry for GST will start from 1st April, 2017 to make them aware of the new taxation system.



#### RAPID (Revenue, Accountability, Probity, Information and Digitisation)

- Maximise efforts for e-assessment in the coming year
- Enforcing greater accountability of officers of Tax Department for specific act of commission and omission



## *H* ighlights of the RAILWAY BUDGET 2017-18

- ❖ A Rail safety fund with an amount of Rs 100,000 crore will be formed over a period of 5 years
- ❖ The service charge on rail tickets booked through IRCTC will be withdrawn.
- ❖ As many as 500 rail stations will be made differently abled-friendly by granting lifts and escalators.
- ❖ Steps will be taken to begin dedicated trains for pilgrimage and tourism
- ❖ A new metro rail policy will be declared. This is predictable to open up new jobs for the youth.
- ❖ At least 25 train stations are likely to be awarded during 2017-18
- ❖ By 2019, all coaches of the Indian Railways will be fitted with bio-toilets
- ❖ Railways will incorporate end to end transport solutions for selected commodities through partnerships
- ❖ Unmanned railway level crossings to be removed by 2020
- ❖ A 22% increase in the Railways Budget was announced.

### Description Of Indian Rail Budget

Great fund is allocated to the Indian Railways according to the FM Arun Jaitley. Here is the description of highlights of FM Arun Jaitley's Union Budget 2017:

#### Budget Allotment:

In the year 2017-18, the capital and development expenditure on railway is to be Rs 1,31,000 crore which comprise Rs 55,000 crore offered by the Government.





#### Passenger Safety:

For the safety of passengers, FM Arun Jaitley has projected a Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh with a security fund of Rs 1 lakh crore over the period of 5 years (20,000 crore annually). He said that comprehensible rules for safety will be drawn out. FM Jaitley also said that all unmanned railway crossings will be eliminated by 2020.

#### New Railway Lines:

In 2017-2018, the railway lines of 3,500 km will be commissioned. Railways have raised joint ventures with 9 state governments.

#### Redevelopments:

It is announced by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that at least 25 stations are to be awarded for station redevelopment and approximately 500 stations will be made differently abled-friendly by providing lifts and escalators.

#### Solar Power:

FM Arun Jaitley planned to supply at least 7,000 stations with solar power in the middle term and said that a foundation has already been made in 300 stations. He also said that work will be continued for 2000 stations as element of the government's 1000 Megawatt solar assignment. He also said that by 2019, all rail coaches will have bio-toilets.

#### Grievances:

A coach mitra facility is proposed by the Finance Minister

Arun Jaitley. This facility is a single window interface which can be availed to record all the complaints and grievances relevant to coach at one place.

#### Bookings and Tariff:

FM Jaitley said that e-tickets booked through the IRCTC website will be free of service charges. This is an attempt to push digital transactions. He said that taxes will be fixed taking into account cost of other forms of transport. Keeping this in mind, fares can be expected to rise. He also declared that Railway associated state-run companies like IRCON and IRCTC to be listed on stock exchanges.

#### New Trains And Policies:

FM Arun Jaitley announced that steps will be taken to initiate pilgrimage trains. He also said that a new metro rail policy will be put in place. A new Metro Rail Act will be passed by rationalizing the accessible laws. This will assist greater private contribution and investment in construction and operation.

Additionally, Railways will apply end to end incorporated transport solutions for select merchandise through partnership with logistics players, who would offer both front and back end connectivity. Systematic stocks and practices will be adapted to transport consumable goods, especially agricultural products. As part of accounting transformations, accumulation based financial statements will be rolled out by March 2019.



# TAX PROPOSALS IN THE SPEECH OF FINANCE MINISTER FOR ASSAM BUDGET 2017-18



Respected Speaker Sir,

This august house will be delighted to know that I do not want to propose any new tax measure for this financial year 2017-18. In fact for a change, I would like to give an account of series of path breaking measures taken by us in the last few months and I assure you Sir, all these interventions will be monitored, consolidated and strengthened during the fiscal of 2017-18.

These measures taken by us have already started yielding fruits to the State economy. I am happy to share that there has been buoyancy in revenue collection up to December, 2016 and this is far higher than any of the previous years as shown below :

### COLLECTION OF REVENUE AS ON 31.12.2016

Sl. No.	Department	Rs. in crores		Growth
		Dec, 2016	Dec, 2015	
01.	Transport	365.04	318.35	14.66%
02.	Excise	657.47	537.61	22.30 %
03.	Taxation	7237.40	6190.74	17.00 %
04.	Mines & Minerals (Including Oil Royalty)	1555.97	1407.68	10.53 %
	Oil Royalty (Arrear)	1450.00	-	-
	Total (with arrear)	11265.88	8454.38	33.25 %
	Total (without arrear)	9815.88	8454.38	16.10 %

To augment revenue collection of the State, many tangible measures have already been taken. I further propose to take some measures in this direction and I would like to give the Hon'ble Members a glimpse of the measures which have already been taken and which I propose to take now:

### A. FINANCE (TAXATION) DEPARTMENT :

- Relevant provision of the Assam VAT Act have already been amended for imposition VAT on sale of liquor on first sale transaction within the State in unison with the levy of excise duty on liquor as per the new Excise Rules 2016. This has been done in order to arrest evasion of tax taking place through inter-bond sale route. Besides, MRP based tax has been introduced in case of liquor.
- Online issuance of statutory forms like Delivery Note has already commenced.
- The Entry Tax pending in the Supreme Court was effectively handled and concluded in favour of the State. This resulted in additional revenue collection of more than Rs.400 crore.
- VAT on specified petroleum products, which will not be subsumed into GST immediately, will be adjusted in such a way that the existing State-specific charges levied by oil companies on these items on account of entry tax on crude oil will get subsumed into VAT so that State do not suffer any financial loss and consumers also do not pay any additional tax. We need to take care that we



augment our revenue without putting any additional burden on our consumers this count and we will ensure that.

- The State Government will sign a MOU with CBEC/CBDT for sharing information or data with State Government since such sharing of information among revenue earning Departments is fundamental for bringing efficiency and effectiveness in any tax administration.

#### **B. EXCISE**

- New Assam Excise Rules 2016 has been notified from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 which, inter-alia, has shifted the point of levy of excise duty to first point to ensure that only duty paid liquor comes out from manufacturing and this has curbed leakage of excise revenue.
- New Country Liquor Policy has already been approved by the Cabinet. This new Policy, which replaces *mahal* system, will ensure that the country spirit is produced in a bottling plant like Indian Made Foreign Liquor in a hygienic environment with much better quality.
- Policy on production of traditional/heritage alcoholic liquor at commercial level is being made ready.
- Cabinet has also approved amendment in Excise Rules for according status of bonded warehouse to CSD Canteens to enable them to pay excise duty at the time of sale.
- Barcode containing holographic label on the liquor bottles is being implemented after completing the formalities like floating the tenders.
- e-Governance has been taken up under the ASPIRe (Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms) Project and all kinds of revenue collection, permits, licences shall be made online and fully digital.
- To deal with the menace of illicit liquor, it is contemplated to make certain offences non-bailable.

#### **C. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT**

- Certain provisions of Assam Motor Vehicle rules, 2003 have been amended for enhancement of revenue from :-
- Restructuring of fees for Conductor License, Duplicate driving License, Trade License of M.V. Dealers, Agent License, Inspection fee of vehicles on arrival at Dealers point, Registration permission of new model of vehicles.
- Auction of Fancy/choice Registration mark.
- Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1936 is being amended for effective taxation on ad-valorem basis in case of 2 Wheeler/3 wheeler (Private)/Ambulance (commercial use).
- Online Dealer point registration of vehicle has been successfully initiated.

#### **D. LAND REVENUE AND REGISTRATION :**

- Land re-classification will be done immediately with online provision as it has proved to be major source of hindrance to industry and breeding ground for corruption.
- In eight districts, Mouzadar system will be introduced in place of existing Tahsildari system. Sale permission will be made online and time bound. Land revenue activities will be made online in an integrated manner. Mouzas will be computerized. Collection of land revenue will be monitored online.

#### **E. GEOLOGY AND MINING:**

- State Government will pursue auction of marginal Oil fields.
- Department will take up with Govt. of India for small coal fields, which are not allotted to any PSU and vulnerable to illegal mining, for development by the State Government.
- Department will come out with a strategy and policy for managing the non-forest Sand *Mahals* by the Department itself.

#### **F. ENVIRONMENT & FOREST DEPTT.:**

- Review the issue of Transit Permits to vehicles entering the State, license for Agar wood industrial units along with the proposal for flat rate permits.
- 101 new areas identified for extraction of Sand shall be expedited for commission so that it will fetch estimated additional revenue of Rs. 45 crore.

#### **TAX EXEMPTIONS :**

Sir,

As I stated earlier, I do not wish to put any additional burden on the people in this budget. Rather I intend to give some relief to certain sectors which would stimulate growth in tourism, entertainment, etc.

- We need to boost the tourism industry especially the ecological and botanical strengths of our State in rural areas. For this, State Government has already launched a programme to encourage Home-Stays in Assam. It is, therefore, required to propose to exempt luxury tax in respect of hotels and lodging houses, including home-stays, providing residential accommodation in rural areas.
- There is a general criticism that modern cinema halls like multiplexes are not very keen to screen Assamese/regional films. In order to encourage exhibition of local films, I propose to grant 50% entertainment tax exemption for a period of three years to Permanent multiplexes, which have commenced or commence their commercial operation during specified period provided they give a written undertaking to the effect that they will

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- In recognition of the contribution of small tea growers in the economy in Assam, I had reduced cess on green tea leaf from 25 paise per kg to 15 paise per kg under the Assam Taxation (On Specified Lands) Act in my last budget and I further promised to reduce it in phased manner. Accordingly, I now propose to reduce such cess to 10 paise per kg of green tea leaf for small tea growers.
- As a goodwill gesture and as a gift to our sisters, our Government will exempt the women SHGs from stamp duty for documentation related to Bank loan upto Rs. 2.5 lakhs in the financial year 2017-18.

In the end, I would like to remind Hon'ble Members that I dwelt in detail in my last speech about the taxation as core requirement of any Government. While our Government is fully conscious about this, I would also like to highlight that this Government is not keen to impose the tax or additional burden unless it is really required to meet our sovereign and developmental duties. With the current level of policy reforms coupled with strict monitoring, we are confident that the revenue growth rate will improve further in the fiscal 2017-18.

#### BUDGET ESTIMATES

- Sir, I come to the Budget estimates for the financial year 2017-18. Every year State Government has been placing five year medium term fiscal plan and the other statements required to be placed in the House as per Assam Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act, 2005. In this regard, you will be delighted to know that we have tried to improve the content of this statement by including an Overview of the State's Economy, State's Finances, Fiscal Correction Path etc.

- The budget estimates of 2017-18 show a receipt of Rs.84732.16 crore under the consolidated fund of the State. Out of this, Rs.70719.61 crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs.14012.55 crore is under Capital Account. I have shown the estimated receipt in the consolidated fund from different sources at Table-1. After adding the receipt of Rs.162580.51 crore under Public Account and Rs.100 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate receipts amount to Rs.247412.67 crore. As against this, total expenditure from the consolidated fund of the of the State in 2017-18 is estimated at Rs.85922.69 crore of which Rs.68319.45 crore is on Revenue Account and Rs.17603.24 crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of grant-wise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2017-18 have been shown in Table-2. Taking into account the expenditure of Rs.161757.17 crore under Public Account and Rs.100 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs.247779.86 crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated deficit of Rs.367.19 crore. This, together with the opening deficit of Rs.1982.60 crore will lead to a budget deficit of Rs.2349.79 crore at the end of the financial year 2017-18.

- In the last budget, we had made number of announcements. This obviously generates questions in the mind of our people whether we will be able to implement them. Undoubtedly, implementation is a big challenge. But, we will make sincere efforts involving everyone in the true spirit of *Team Assam* so that the fruits of the programmes announced in this Budget reach the common people.

With this, I commend this budget for consideration of this August House.

স্বৰ্গ বিচাৰি নেযাওঁ জননী  
আৰু যে স্বৰ্গ নাই,  
ভয়ে আমাৰ চিৰ সাধনাৰ  
চৰম লক্ষ্য ঠাই।

তোৰ চৰণৰে ধূলি সানি সানি  
তোৰেই পদজল এচলু খাই,  
তোৰ কোলাতেই মুদিম দুচকু  
শেষত ভকতি-ভক্তিমা গাই।

\* \* \*

**JAI AAI ASOM**  
**BHARAT MATA KI JAI**



# Assam Budget 2017-18



## Following are the Highlights of Assam Budget 2017-18

1. Assam becomes the 1st state to ratify GST Bill. In a historic achievement, the state got compensation formula at fixed growth rate at 14% in GST Council.
2. In SVAYEM Yojana 1 lakh youth to be given credit support – Re 1 lakh for new business, Re 2 lakh for existing enterprises.
3. Kanakalata Mahila Sabalikiran Yojana (KAMS) to promote 1 lakh women SHG, each to get support of Re 5 lakh. Re 250 cr allocated in the 2017-2018 FY
4. Gene Bank for Indigenous Fish (GBIF) designed for conservation of 82 endangered variety including scientific directory of indigenous fishes
5. First instalment of arrears of 7th Assam Pay Commission will be released in April/May 2017 & balance arrears will be paid within fiscal year 17-18.
6. Reforms in Mid Day Meal: Eggs for all 42.61 lakh children in lower, upper primary schools at Re 130 cr/yr. All schools to get LPG connections.
7. Price Stabilisation Fund of Re 150 cr with Food & Civil Supplies dept to correct market failures, contain price rise. To expedite adoption of LPG under Ujwala by BPL families, we'll provide fin assistance of Re 1000/family in addition to existing incentives
8. Re 667 cr under Tejasvi Navadhitamastu EduInfra Funds (TNEIF) for infra devt of professional colleges & Univs over 34 yrs. Under TNEIF govt to start 8 women colleges in minority dominated areas, 3 govt degree colleges, 20 BEd colleges, 33 skill devt centers etc.

9. Rs1200cr under City Infra Development Fund(CIDF) for pub infra projects in 6 large cities: Silchar, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Tezpur. CIDF focus on projects like riverfront, public parks, landmark roads, marriage halls, libraries and stadiums.

10. Housing loan will be given to all govt employees at interest rate of 5.05% without collateral security up to a limit of Rs 15 lakhs.

11. 3 imp entrypoint activities under CMSGUSupply of tractors for farm mechanization, football field devt, est of knowledge centres.

12. Government to increase Muga silk production by 10 times by 2026 Mission Muga being launched; to benefit 16.43 weavers, 2.75 lakh rearers.

13. In a historic move, current government propose 100% interest subvention on agri loans by Assam farmers to encourage uptake of credit. Zero Interest Crop Loans is possibly first such transformative intervention to drive agri loan and uplift rural economy. Re 25 cr allotted in 2017-18

14. To reactivate over 8 lakh inactive KCCs we are providing 1time cash incentives of Re 3000 per inactive card for reactivation. Re 65 cr fund allocated.

15. Re. 100 cr to convert 1000 timber bridges into permanent RCC bridges. 48 ROB to be built with 50% state share.

16. The budget propose to pay Re 5000 to each of 6.5 lakh tea garden workers who have opened bank accounts to strengthen financial inclusion. Re 287 cr allocated. For better health, nutrition of pregnant & temporary tea garden workers & bring down MMR and IMR, the government is introducing 1time payment of Re 12k.

17. To help rope in Assamese diaspora in strengthening trade, business & culture, it propose to set up Pravasi Asomiya Dept.

18. Deen Dayal Divyang Sahajya Achari: Re 5k to be given to each 4.5 lakh Divyang in state for treatment. Re 250 cr allocated.

19. To address housing needs of poor & homeless, we propose to give Re 50k subsidy to each beneficiary, in addition to existing benefits. The govt has taken up steps for large scale construction of houses in urban areas under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing For All.

20. To build quality intelligence network, enhance cyber security & forensics, we are working on a Cyber Dome project using cutting edge Tech

21. To ensure dignified life of 16k surrendered militants and encourage others, we shall take steps for skill devt & entrepreneurship for them.

22. Updating of National Register for Citizens (NRC) top priority of govt. Process of verification of documents, familytree progressing well.

23. To promote Majuli, government will be using 'O'Majuli' as the trade mark of organic products and wish to establish it as world's popular organic brand.

24. Under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund 1000 ha of new Fish Ponds, 430 ha of village community tanks, 4 fish mkts to be constructed.

25. The Assam budget 2017 propose to set up a children hospital in Guwahati with most modern tech & infra facilities, and which shall be best in South East Asia. 116 model hospitals approved to be set up across Assam – construction of 79 completed; 63 hospitals functional with OPD, delivery & lab.

26. In FY 2017-18, the govt shall launch 2 solar power projects: 69 MW at Amguri in Sivasagar, 20 MW at Chandrapur in Kamrup. To strengthen electricity supply we propose to put 24x7 dedicated feeder to Kamakhya, Kaziranga, Majuli, Tezpur, Sualkuchi and Manas.

27. To develop landmark public infrastructure projects in Guwahati, the budget propose to allot Re 200 cr to be released over 3 years. Work on Guwahati Smart City has begun & I have allocated Re 400 cr for this project. Assam govt has received Re 189 cr as central share.

28. Re 32 cr allocated for 2 multilevel care parking at Panbazar & Ganeshguri during Fy2017-18 to resolve issue of lack of public vehicle parking spaces.

29. To boost employment & opportunities, the govt shall establish a highend Handloom Production Centre in 2017-18. Also, the govt proposes a Skill City in Assam, which will have specialised skills school. 1st such school to be set up this year. MoU with ITE Singapore.

30. ISBTs at Khanpara, Tezpur, Kokrajhar also proposed along with modernization of existing vehicles.

31. To attract investments, the government will hold a mega business summit called Vivacious in Oct/Nov2017. Wish this becomes comparable to Gujarat Summit.

32. To inculcate scientific temperament, 6 new planetariums to be set up at Majuli, Kaliabor, Amingaon, Bongaigaon, Diphu & Silchar.

33. In a joint venture with Indian Railways the current Assam government propose to start Ropeway from Kamakhya Railway station to Kamakhya Temple. Re 15 cr allocated.

34. In an effort to encourage girl students, the state government propose to provide 2wheelers to top 1000 girl students who pass HS Exam in 2017, in next FY.

35. Rural homestay scheme Amor Alohi will boost tourism and create new entrepreneurs in rural areas of Assam.

36. It also propose to develop a park around the memorial of Khagen Mahanta, doyen of Assamese music and a cultural icon.

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