

**SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR FOR THE BUSINESS
CONCLAVE OF APNA PARIWAR GLOBAL (APG) TO BE
HELD ON 11TH JANUARY, 2019 AT TAJ VIVANTA**

NAMASKAR..

Respected dignitaries on and off the dais, business leaders, entrepreneurs, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today during Global Business Conclave of Apna Pariwar Global. I thank Dr. Ram Kailash Gupta for giving me this opportunity to grace the occasion. Apna Pariwar Global has been a model network existing in several countries has ventured in many innovative business concepts. Apna Pariwar Global or APG as it is shortly referred to is Dr. Gupta's visionary dream.

Today, India is moving forward under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He has enunciated Act East Policy which entails increased people to people, trade and other relations with countries on India's east particularly ASEAN countries.

Assam and Northeast are close to ASEAN nations. We have land borders with Myanmar. Many of ASEAN capitals are within 2,000 kilometre flying distance from Guwahati which is comparable to flying distance of Guwahati to many Indian cities. New flight services between Guwahati and ASEAN capitals have already taken off. The construction of a new terminal building at Guwahati airport is going on in full swing.

There is a motorable road link, the ASEAN trilateral highway connecting North East and ASEAN. The Government of India is working to improve this land route in full earnest.

Assam is the largest among 8 Northeastern States of India with a population of 33 million and area of 78 thousand square kilometers. It is blessed with variety of natural resources and very rich bio-diversity.

Assam is home to the famous one horned rhino at Kaziranga and other National parks which have variety of wild life including tigers and other flora and fauna. Assam is blessed with 5 National Parks and 18 Wildlife sanctuaries. While recognizing this wealth as our fundamental strength, our vision is to grow in economy with the growth of ecology. In this direction we have now decided to plant 100 million trees every year in Assam on a mission mode. Thus Assam wants to be front-runner and join the Global efforts against climate change.

Assam is nurtured by one of the greatest rivers of the world, Brahmaputra. Our civilization has grown along the mighty river. Majuli, the largest river island of the world in river Brahmaputra is known for its Satriya culture and ecological purity. The Barak is the other important river. Both rivers along with their many tributaries have a huge potential for river transport, tourism and industry. We hope to get access to the Bay of Bengal through Chittagong port in Bangladesh in near future.

Assam has very fertile land, abundant rainfall and produces significant quantity of fruits like banana, orange and pineapple and

spices like ginger and turmeric. Assam has a tremendous potential for agro processing industry.

Assam Tea is famous throughout the world. Assam has around 850 tea gardens and 1,30,000 small tea growers. You will be amazed to know that there are 20 golf courses and heritage clubs embedded in the scenic tea gardens. The Petroleum industry in India started at Digboi in Assam and we have today four refineries and significant petroleum as well as natural gas reserves.

Assam has over 20 million people in the working age group heralding a new era for youth led development. The State has a large pool of skilled workforce, adept in IT, English language and communication skills. Assam intends to make over 1 million people job ready with advanced skills.

We have taken inspiration from the Prime Minister's Act East Policy and set up a separate Act East Policy Affairs Department. We propose to make Guwahati as India's gateway to ASEAN. We have notified the State Capital Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since this is a business conclave I feel it is pertinent to showcase the business potentials available in Assam in particular and North East in general before this august gathering. In view of these potentials, I invite all of you present here and those industrialists, investors and entrepreneurs who could not be here tonight because of their pre-occupations, please come to Assam start your

businesses here. Government of Assam will help you in every possible way in your ventures. In the end once again, I thank Dr. Ram Kailash Gupta for holding this all important event here in Guwahati. Looking forward to more interaction with you all, I conclude my observations here.

Namaskar..

Jai Hind