



REPORT OF ONE DAY PANEL DISCUSSION ON CHARTING THE EMERGENCE OF THE STATE IDENTITY OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

In the mark of 50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh, the celebration committee in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills organized a *One day panel discussion on charting the emergence of the State identity of Arunachal Pradesh* at Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills on 16th February 2022. Shri Passang Dorjee Sona, Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The programme started with the playing of the National Anthem and then the Rajiv Gandhi University Song. Subsequently, Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University facilitated the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the dais.

Prof. Amitava Mitra, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries in the hall. Further, in his short-lived deliberation, he throws a light on how Rajiv Gandhi University is involved in the process of development of the state. He also referred to the project “Unsung Heroes of Arunachal Pradesh” undertaken by the university as an example.

Subsequently, Prof P.K Panigrahi, Chairman, Political History Seminar Cluster Committee, Rajiv Gandhi University highlighted the background of the event. His deliberation mainly confined to the issues and challenges that Arunachal Pradesh is facing today and the scope that the state has for development. He felt that challenges have to be converted into opportunities.

In his deliberation, Shri Passang Dorjee Sona, Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly made a brief conceptualization of 50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh as a Chairman of the entire programme. Further, he informed the august gathering that the programme was inaugurated at Zero, Lower Subansiri District where Arunachal Pradesh was formally named. While sharing his view, it is said that to achieve the common goal

for Arunachal Pradesh, we should be Arunachlee first than we may belong to any tribe or clan or community. Further, he appreciated all the panellists as all are belong to different backgrounds.

The inaugural session culminated with the vote of thanks by Dr. N.T Rikam, Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University.

After the tea break, the first-panel discussion was started on the theme- **From early time to Statehood**. The panel consisted of four members belonging to a different field. The panellists are- Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, IDE and Head, Department of History, RGU, Shri Ninong Ering, MLA, 37- Pasighat West, Shri Dani Sulu, Secretary APDM and State Transport, Arunachal Pradesh and Shri R. K Khramey, Former Minister, Arunachal Pradesh. The penal discussion was moderated by Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University.

Prof. Tana Showren welcomed the panellist and also briefed the historical background of Arunachal Pradesh since the regime of Ahom kingdom to as of now. Prof. Showren stated that in the Kalikopuran, our state was known as Parbu Mountain. It was Ahom who first colonized North-East India for 600 years. However, after 1826, the British took over the regime of North-East India from the Ahom partially. It was after 1839, the entire Brahmaputra Valley was brought under the colonial rule of the British. However, there was a certain Hills area wherein the Britishers were unable to penetrate that was present the Arunachal Pradesh. At that time Arunachal Pradesh was like a buffer zone and post office to the colonial administration. So, many regulations were made to maintain peace and tranquility within and outside the colonial jurisdiction. And, the Inner Line Permit (ILP) was part of those regulations. The active administration was started from 1914 onward in the Brahmaputra Valley. The Britisher started the forward movement. At that time, the entire valley was divided into three important sectors i.e Centre and Eastern, Lakhimpur Frontier Tract and the Western Sector. In 1919 as a part of the forward policy, the three divisions were further bifurcated. In 1948, with the amalgamation of a group of districts, a state was created i.e NEFA and also appointed an Assistant Political Officer to supervise thereof. On 20th February 1987, Arunachal Pradesh was declared as the 24th state of India.

Shri Ninong Ering, 1st Panelist:

Shri Ninong Ering, the 1st panellist started his deliberation with the note that “I am

privileged enough that I have seen the three generations of Prime Minister of India". He segregated the three generations as- 1st generation started from Pandit Nehru to Indira Gandhi, the era of 2nd generation started from Rajiv Gandhi to Dr Manmohan Singh and the 3rd generation started from Narendra Modi. He slightly touched the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars after India independent from the regime of the British. He stated that from 1992 onward, economic development took place in India. While sharing his experiences in regards to our state the then NEFA; stated that there were lots of communication problems in 1968. Even, a town like Pasighat did not have proper road connectivity. There were many peoples who have protested against the introduction of the Panchayati Raj System in the state. The people were of affirming believed that the same colonialized rule is going to introduce in the state. However, with the passing of time, the people accepted the law as part of the transition period of development.

Shri Ninong Ering extended his gratitude to the present Government of Arunachal Pradesh under the able leadership of Shri Pema Khandu, the Chief Minister of the state for his generosity to involve all sections of the society in the policy-making for better Arunachal Pradesh.

Prof. Ashan Riddi, the 2nd Panelist:

In his deliberation, Prof Riddi said that the present Arunachal Pradesh is a very beautiful and potential state. However, in earlier days it was a very difficult state and still, it is, indeed.

Professor Riddi said that to understand Arunachal Pradesh we should know about the history of our neighbouring states and countries. The history of Arunachal is related to Tibet, Burma and Assam. Historically, Arunachal Pradesh does not belong to China or Indian Territory but it was integrated into India. Arunachal had no king and queen or dynasty rather it was survived as an individual territory. None could conquer Arunachal Pradesh even Ahom king. Rather the people of Arunachal Pradesh collected taxes from the neighbouring state and countries. The people of Arunachal Pradesh in those days believed that I'm seating in the hills and I have a right to keep my foot on the Foot-Hills area and have every right to claim the properties therein. The Ahom kingdom did not agree with that claim of the Arunachalee people and to content that many expeditions had made but they straightly failed. Finally, Ahom king also agreed with the Arunachalee and allowed them to collect taxes from the foothill area. Even, after 1826, when the British came to Assam many expeditions have made but they too succumbed. Britishers felt that

the territories that came under Ahom kingdom belonged to the British administration but when they came to Assam they found different stories. The people in the hills area collected taxes from the people in the foothills area. During the regime of the British, the Arunachalee made many expeditions and even killed a British officer at Balipara. Prof. Riddi concluded his deliberation by saying that there were conflicts on administration, resources and its people. So, Britisher introduced Inner Line Regulation to regulate the jurisdiction of its people. Inner Line Regulation was introduced not to regulate the people of Arunachal Pradesh rather it defined the administrative jurisdiction of Britisher; beyond which the foothills people would not go.

R. K Khrimey, 3rd Panelist:

At the very outset, he extended his tribute to his colleagues who have made their journey to heaven. Further, while briefing the history of Arunachal Pradesh said that headquarter of Balipara Tract was first came at Rupa. During our young days, the situation was different than today. Those days, we did not have our own elected government to whom we place our grievances directly. The medium of dissemination of information was very rare, only educational institution was the source of information. As such, the students used to spearhead the grievance of the people before the union government since the Gam Bura and Political Officer were appointed by the union government at that time. He also shared his association with students' organizations since school days. In his deliberation, he remembered Lt. Daying Ering and also shared their association. While sharing the political dynamic of the state, he said that a major change was brought in 1975. In 1975, the State Legislative Assembly was introduced in union territory with 33 members house (30 elected and 3 nominated), two Lok Shaba and one Rajaya Shaba. R. K Khrimey also recalled how the statehood bill was moved and also threw light on the merit and demerit of the statehood. He also touched on the vivid characteristics of Arunachal Pradesh with reference to the major tribes and sub-tribes and challenges for the bright future of the state.

Shri Dani Sulu, 4th Panelist:

He agreed with the previous panellists in regards to acceptance of the statehood at the same time he termed the bill as a "wounded bill". He felt that we should have the right to our natural resources like Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya. We need to take a serious look at our statehood bill. Right on natural resources must be given to our people like in Nagaland, Tripura

and Meghalaya. A new political will must be developed and across the party line, everyone must come together.

Question round:

Prof. Tana Showren to Ninong Ering:

Question: Since our culture is eroding every subsequent day. What is your look at it and what measures would you like to suggest?

Shri Ninong Ering:

In the response to the question, Shri Ninog Ering pondered upon the diversity of culture in Arunachal Pradesh. He has of view that religion should not come in the way of culture. A tribal is born as tribal; no one can detach them from being tribal. What we need are quality of life, honesty, potential people and good infrastructure in our state.

Shri Dani Sulu accompanied Shri Ninong Ering. He has a view of starting politics at the university level. Our parents always discourage us to be associated with politics but it is the politics that bring progress in the state or nation. He also encouraged having a sustainable population in the state.

Question: what are the options if we lift ILP from Arunachal Pradesh?

The question passed on unanswered.

Question: If China develops infrastructures on their own land, why does it become a headache for India? India cannot develop infrastructures on their own land?

The panellists briefed the achievement of the state and the union government in the line of development of infrastructures in the state.

Question: why we should not move a bill to do away the defective statehood bill like Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland in dedication to 50 years of statehood day?

Due to time constraints, the question went unanswered.

The second Panel Discussion started after the lunch break on the theme **Political Development:**

Issues and Challenges. The panellists comprised of Prof. Nabam Nakha Hina, Head, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Shri Hawa Bagang, President, All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, Shri Tobom Dai, General Secretary, All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union and Shri Hayeng Mangfi, MLA, Arunachal Pradesh. Prof S. K Choudhury chaired the session as moderator.

Prof. Nabam Nakha Hina, 1st panellist:

Prof. Hina appreciated the event as he felt that the very programme is the first of its kind in the history of Arunachal Pradesh wherein the resource persons are called for deliberation on the topic political development: issues and challenges in the state. He has of view that the issues and challenges which we are facing today in our state are accumulated one. We should not blame the particular government or political party. Prof. Hina thoroughly pondered upon the defective Statehood Act in his deliberation. Professor of view that the statehood bill was passed without special protection for tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh though there was already existence of refugees and even ex-servicemen settled in Arunachal Pradesh. Even, the state came into being without proper demarcation of its political boundary. Further, he touched the mushrooming of private educational institutions in the state and also advocated for the need to protect the flora and fauna of the state.

Shri Hawa Bagang, 2nd panelist:

Shri Hawa Bagang highlighted the role of AAPSU to physique the present Arunachal Pradesh. He threw light on how the medium of instruction was changed from Assamese to English in the state. It was AAPSU who persuaded the authority to change the medium of instruction in the educational institutions. He also touched on the dynamic of religionization in the state. He was of the view that the offspring problem is a threat to our state. If we overlook this issue then the day is not far to become our state like Tripura. Shri Bagang has shown his concern for the drugs menace in the state and also held the responsibility on police personnel for the rapid spread of its users. Police personnel knew all the drug paddlers but they are reluctant to arrest those persons. Further, a reluctant attitude comes to the police personnel because of pressure from ministers and bureaucrats and technocrats. Lastly, he questioned the RGU authorities and students in regards to the quality of infrastructures. He requested students and administrators of RGU to take a proactive role to ensure quality infrastructures on the campus.

Shri Tobom Dai, 3rd panellist:

He highlighted the role and background of the North East Students' Organization (NESO). Further, he explained the role of NESO in the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the North-Eastern states. NESO is an amalgamation of many students organization of North-East states. NESO play the role of a think-tank of broader issues of the North-East. He complements the statement of Shri Hawa Bagang about the role of students' unions in the state with special reference to AAPSU.

Shri Hayeng Mangfi, 4th panellist:

Shri Mangfi started his deliberation with the note "unless young minds are united, no state can prosper". He suggested that young people should participate in the events related to the state. He was of the view that political development is a process of evaluation. He has suggested the participants to retrospect themselves; are we really doing our part for better Arunachal. For a better state, we need wealth. So, if we want to progress, we need to create wealth. He believed that the biggest wealth is intellectual development. Thus, huge investment is needed for intellectual development in the state. It is the only investment in intellectual development that will create responsible leaders. If we want a prosperous state the youth must come out of individualistic mindsets, MLAs must come out without vested interest. If not today then there will be no tomorrow. Lastly, he advocated for balanced development and the development activities being taken up by the present state government.

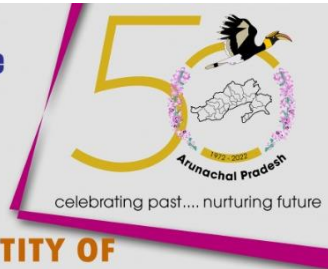
Finally, the panel discussion has culminated with the vote of thank delivered by Dr. David Gao, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University.



50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh Celebration Committee
in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills

Welcomes you to

**ONE DAY PANEL DISCUSSION ON
CHARTING THE EMERGENCE OF THE STATE IDENTITY OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**



Shri Passang Dorjee Sonu,
Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh
Legislative Assembly, Arunachal Pradesh
as Chief Guest.

Organised by

Golden Jubilee (50) years of Arunachal Pradesh Celebration Committee
In collaboration with

Department of Political Science, Department of History,
Department of National Security Studies & Institute of Distance Education,
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

Theme:

- Arunachal Pradesh: From Early times to Statehood
- Political Development: Issues and Challenges

Date : 16th February, 2022

Venue : Main Auditorium



Panelist,
Prof. Neema Naithe Rika,
Head, Department of Political Science,
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills



Panelist,
Shri Dani Sulu,
Secretary, APDM & Transport
Dept of Arunachal Pradesh



Panelist,
Shri Hees Bagging,
Member, APDM



Panelist,
Shri Ninong Ering, M.L.A.,
Arunachal Pradesh



Panelist,
Shri Ninong Ering, M.L.A.,
Arunachal Pradesh



Panelist,
Shri R. K. Khrimy,
Former Minister, Arunachal Pradesh



Panelist,
Tansen Bha,
Journalist, Arunachal Pradesh



Panelist,
Prof. Saket Kushwaha,
Vice-Chancellor, RGU



Moderator,
Prof. Tana Showren,
Dean, Institute of State Services,
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills



Moderator,
Prof. Sanku Choudhury,
Head, Department of Anthropology,
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills



Chairman,
Prof. P. K. Panigrahi,
Political History Seminar
Cluster Committee



celebrating past.... nurturing future

For several centuries Arunachal remained hidden land, unexposed to the outer world. Being remained as land locked entity for several centuries, the past knowledge about Arunachal Pradesh remains cloaked in mystery. The history of the state and its people is mainly known through oral literature which passed through generation to generation and a number of historical ruins found at different places of Arunachal Pradesh. There is no written historical records of the state from past but many believe that the earliest citations about the origin of Arunachal Pradesh are found in the epic of Mahabharata and other Vedic texts where the region is cited as Prabhu Mountains. The Advents of Ahoms and British has gradually exposed the hidden land to the outside world thereby initiated the modern political process. Arunachal Pradesh as a state has undergone a long process of evolution. It passes through the stage of Frontier Tracts, Frontier Agency, Union Territory and finally to the 24th State of the Indian Union.

PROGRAMME

16th February 2022

- 09: 30 am Inviting the guests to the podium and felicitation followed by National Anthem.
- 09:35 am Welcome address by Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- 09:40 am Briefing about the Program by Prof. P.K. Panigrahi, Chairman, Political History Seminar Cluster Committee, Rajiv Gandhi University
- 09:45 am Address by Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University.
- 10:00 am Address by the Chief Guest, Shri Passang Dorjee Sonu, Hon'able Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- 10:25 am Vote of Thanks by Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University

Tea Break

Panel Discussion - 1

First Session : 10:40 am onwards

Theme: Arunachal Pradesh: From Early Times to Statehood

Moderator: Prof. Tana Showren

- 10:40 am Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, IDE and Head, Department of History, RGU
- 10:50 am Shri Ninong Ering, MLA, Arunachal Pradesh
- 11:00 am Shri Dani Sulu, Secretary APDM and State Transport, Arunachal Pradesh
- 11: 10 am Shri R. K. Khrimy, Former Minister, Arunachal Pradesh
- 11: 20 am – 11:50 am Open Discussion

Tea Break

Panel Discussion - 2

Second Session: 12.00 Noon onwards

Theme: Political Development: Issues and Challenges

Moderator: Prof. S. K. Choudhury

12:00 pm Prof. Nabam Nakha Hina, Head, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University.

12:10 pm President / Secretary, All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union..

12:20 pm Ms. Tongam Rina, Journalist, Arunachal Pradesh.

12:30 pm Shri Hayeng Mangfi, MLA, Arunachal Pradesh.

12:40 pm 1:20 pm Open Discussion

1:25 pm onwards **Lunch**



Rajiv Gandhi University
Fraternity invites your kind presence of
One Day Panel Discussion

on
**Charting the Emergence of the
State Identity of Arunachal Pradesh**
to mark the
Golden Jubilee (50) years of Arunachal Pradesh
At Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills

Shri Passang Dorjee Sona,
Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly,
Arunachal Pradesh
will grace the occasion as Chief Guest.

Theme: 1972 - 2022
"Arunachal Pradesh: from early times to statehood".
"Political Development: Issues and Challenges".

celebrating past nurturing future
Time: 9.30 AM
Venue: Main Auditorium, Rajiv Gandhi University

(Dr. Nabam Tadar Rikam)
Registrar
Rajiv Gandhi University