

**ADDRESS BY THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND  
AT A SPECIAL SESSION OF MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
Aizawl, November 30, 2017**

1. Governor of Mizoram, Lt.General (rtd), Nirbhay Sharmaji, the Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly Pu Hipheiji, Dy Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Pu R. Lalrinawmaji, Members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman; this is my first visit to Mizoram after being elected President of India. I am truly happy to be here and thank the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Chief Minister and all the other members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly for inviting me to address this august House.
2. Mizoram is special in India. It stands out for a very mature and dignified political culture. This Assembly is the true embodiment of Mizoram's political culture as well as of the will and aspirations of the people of the state. We are aware of the three Ds of the legislature. This is a place to debate, dissent and finally decide. Yet there are other principles to follow too. Ideally, the functioning of the legislature should be marked by dignity and decorum. And the political system should not allow differences to become disputes.
3. While these principles are cherished in all democracies, they are not always followed. Sometimes, these are unfortunate disruptions. Here, I must commend and congratulate the Assembly of Mizoram. In its 45-year history, it has established a reputation for smooth conduct of business. The behaviour and participation of its members – of all of you, I should say – has conformed to the highest standards. This Assembly is a role for our democracy and for how a legislative House should function.
4. The sense of honour and dignity that one sees in public life in Mizoram is heart-warming. It is also typical of this state's rich society. The signing, implementation and adherence to the Mizo Accord of 1986 is still held up as a shining example all over the world. Yesterday I called it a miracle. And it truly is a miracle in the way in which it ended an insurgency situation and a conflict that had divided our country and Mizo society itself.
5. All political stake-holders as well as civil society groups - including the Church and Church-affiliated groups, women's groups and other non-governmental organizations - have got together to create an atmosphere for peace and development in Mizoram. The Accord and its legacy represent one of the greatest successes in India's long