

**SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(FOURTEENTH SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR FOURTH SITTING ON THURSDAY, THE 30th NOVEMBER, 2017
(Time 11:00 A.M. ONWARDS)

WELCOME ADDRESS

1. **Welcome Address** by the Hon'ble Speaker.

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR

2. **His Excellency, Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.) Governor of Mizoram to deliver a speech.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

3. **HIS EXCELLENCY, Shri RAM NATH KOVIND**, President of India to address the House.

VOTE OF THANKS

4. **Pu LAL THANHAWLA**, Hon'ble Chief Minister to propose a Vote of Thanks on the President's Address.

NGURTHANZUALA
Commissioner & Secretary

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SPEAKER : It is a great privilege and an honor for Mizoram and for me, to have his Excellency Pu Ram Nath Kovind, the President of Republic of India in our midst today. Mizoram, the people and the House, wholeheartedly and happily welcomed him. We all feel that India is in Mizoram today, it is a great and wonderful day; we cherish and adore the visit. And we are all exceedingly happy and comforted.

This House is very fortunate that it had been addressed by his Excellency, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India on 24th September, 2005. Today, His Excellency Pu Ram Nath Kovind, the President of Indian Republic again will address the House. The Address will be carefully and attentively attended to, by all.

The House we are now gathering in today is comparatively small and humble but is free, fair and free from up-roaring, shouting and disturbances. Sir, it has its own inner sanctity for the last 45 years and we are very proud of it.

The growth of economy in Mizoram had been greatly stunted by the political upheaval for long 20 years. Due to this, Mizoram was lagging far behind other states while other Indian states were moving towards progress. For this, we badly need special financial help including restoration and revival of our being special category state and schemes of Backward Region Grant Fund.

Unless it is beyond convention and practices, we invite His Excellency Ram Nath Kovindji to visit us again and we try our level best to give him better and more advanced reception. For this, the whole Mizoram and the House extend their best wishes to him, for good health, and long life and prosperity. Jai Hind.

I now request his Excellency, Lt. General, Nirbhay Sharma, Governor of Mizoram to deliver a speech.

Lt. GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA, GOVERNOR :

Hon'ble President of India,
Hon'ble Speaker,
Hon'ble Members of this august House,

We are greatly honoured by the maiden visit of the Hon'ble President of India to the State of Mizoram. The House is privileged to be addressed by him. An honour bestowed on us after more than 12 years, when

the President Abdul Kalam came to the State on 24th September, 2005. Mizoram achieved Statehood on 20th February 1987 after 20 years of disturbance. The historic Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986 has been one of the very few successful accords in the country, and Mizoram has since been an “island of peace” in the region.

The success of Mizoram Peace Accord is also testament to the vibrancy of the civil society out here. Hon’ble President will be pleased to know that in Mizoram, various elements of the society actively play important roles in ensuring the conduct of free and fair elections. In some ways, this can be termed as a model for others to follow. Thus, we continue to have a vibrant democratic process under the Constitution of India.

Mizoram occupies a strategic place in our Act East Policy. Although the State achieves admirably in various human development indices and social indicators such as literacy rate and sex ratio, infrastructural deficit is acute. The way ahead is to enhance connectivity in all its dimensions i.e. i-ways, highways, airways, railways and waterways, “Panch Tatva” as our Hon’ble Prime Minister has called it in the context of the North East.

This will open our windows and provide us the much needed thrust to be upgraded from an outpost to a gateway to South East Asia and beyond. Also, in light of recent developments in neighbouring Myanmar, Mizoram requires particular attention to enhance security. Your visit will certainly bring to attention these issues and motivate us to speed up. We now look forward to your words of wisdom to guide us to live up to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India.

I once again thank the Hon’ble President for visiting our State, and it is our humble desire that there will be more visits in the future. We wish the Hon’ble President good health and wisdom to lead the Nation soaring to even greater heights.
Jai Hind.

SPEAKER : I now beg to call upon His Excellency, Pu Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, to address the House. Let’s give big hands.

Pu RAM NATH KOVIND, PRESIDENT OF INDIA:

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 stakeholders as well as civil society groups – including the Church and Church-affiliated groups, women's groups and other non-governmental organisations – 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 history. One must recall the enlightened and far-sighted leadership of Pu Laldenga, as well as the efforts and generosity of spirit of Pu Lal Thanhawla, who is of course the Chief Minister today as well. And here I would also like to mention another stalwart of Mizoram, the respected Brigadier T. Sailo. Our Mizoram and our India owe these nation builders so much.

6. India is a nation of astonishing diversity. In our country – and frankly even within states of our country – we see a huge variety of ethnic and religious identities, and so many languages, cultures and customs, modes of dress, food habits and types of cuisine. This diversity is our strength. It enriches each of us and contributes to both the unity and the wonder of India. It is important to preserve and cherish this diversity.
7. Economic integration and the movement of people from one part of the country to another for work or education are making all of us much more familiar with each other. For example, young men and women from Mizoram may be found working in the hospitality industry in Kerala or in an IT company in Pune. They contribute, they earn, they stand out for their professionalism – and they add to the cultural wealth of our shared society. It is this human connectivity that makes our country so unique.
8. It is critical to complement it with physical and infrastructural connectivity and trade linkages between Mizoram and the other states of the Northeast and the rest of the country – as well as neighbouring countries of Southeast Asia.
9. This will give Mizoram's agricultural produce and traditional products access to new markets. It will also strengthen IT and Internet connectivity, a process that will have a multiplier effect across a range of industries. Once we create this infrastructure, we can simply leave it to the entrepreneurship, the energy and the genius of the young people of this state to capitalise on it. With their high literacy levels and English-language skills, a golden opportunity lies before the youth of Mizoram.
10. To emphasise a point I made in another speech recently, for a short time in our history there was a misconception about the Northeast being a "frontier". Far from that, it is at the heart of an ancient trade corridor. For centuries, South Asia and Southeast Asia have been perceived as a composite trading region, with cultural similarities as well. Mizoram is right at the centre of this process and of this area. Mizoram's geography can be its biggest asset – and the government of India is working to ensure just that.
11. A member of the House is elected by his or her voters. But once elected, the MLA represents the entire constituency, and not just

those who have voted him. The legislator equally represents those who did not vote for him or in fact those who oppose him. Similarly, a rival in an election is a political competitor and not an enemy. After the election, the competitor could become a colleague in the task of ensuring the well-being and development of a constituency, of the state and the country.

12. This is the beauty of a democratic polity that we must appreciate. I am glad to see that this philosophy has such an instinctive acceptance in Mizoram. Please keep it up.
13. In a short while, I will leave Aizawl and Mizoram. I am reluctant to go as the charm and warmth of the people of the state and the loving reception that I have received here have really touched my emotions. In particular, I was very struck by the friendly, easy-going and yet disciplined manner in which people of the city lined up to greet me as I drove from the helipad. Some of the lovely smiles I saw are still fresh in my memory. I promise to come back.
14. And before I conclude, I would like to convey to all the members of the House, as well as to the officers and staff of the Assembly, the security persons deployed here, and of course all your families – and indeed all the people of Mizoram – my best wishes for the upcoming Festive Season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance. May all our dreams for Mizoram come true!

Thank you

Jai Hind!

SPEAKER : I now invite the Leader of the House, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Pu Lal Thanhawla to propose a Vote of Thanks.

PU LAL THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my proud privilege to propose Vote of Thanks to the Hon'ble President of India for addressing this Special Session of the 7th Mizoram Legislative Assembly, convened in his honour by the Hon'ble Speaker. Sir, we are deeply impressed by your speech and the praise lavished on the Mizo community I feel we don't deserve but then we are

deeply grateful to you for expressing and lavishing all those praises on the Mizo community.

Our House is a small House with only 40 members, Sir. As a veteran Parliamentarian yourself you would be pleased to know that Mizoram Legislative Assembly as you have just pointed out, is one that is most discipline and we are proud of this unique tradition. The decorum that we maintained in the House is often admired by other states when they come a visiting and I am very happy that you also recognized this.

Our House is homogenous and a classless society where every member is equal and can understand and speak which is now known as 'Mizo language'.

We thank you for sparing your time here to be with us legislators and the speech you delivered will further inspire for every member to serve for his or her constituency and not his or her affiliated party alone. You truly remind us of the THE PEOPLE FIRST approach.

Sir, I want to mention here that, according to the NITI Aayog estimate which has been projected recently, our growth rate is one of the highest, along with Gujarat, Jharkhand and Tripura; it is higher than all the other states, i.e. 8% GSDP; we are happy about this.

Also, Sir, I want to mention here that during 2015-16, while the national per-capita income was ₹ 93,293, per capita income in Mizoram was ₹ 95,317. We have also great hydro-electric potential of about 4,000 mega watts. The National Institute of Solar Energy has calculated that Mizoram has even higher solar energy potential which is estimated at 9,090 mega watts.

Sir, we thank you for sparing your time here to be with us, legislators; the speech you delivered will further inspire every member as a state because many of us are not here because but then, we shall circulate the speech you have just delivered and this will inspire each and everyone away. And, also I have to thank you for promising us to come again; and I hope this will happen soon.

Thank you, Mr. President, Sir; we wish you well in all your endeavors. The country is so fortunate to have you as a 14th President. A man of distinction, your affable nature and gentle temperament deeply touches us. Thank you, Sir. Jai Hind.

SPEAKER : The House is now adjourned Sine die.