Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Budget Session 2024-25: Key Highlights and Expectations

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Introduction to the Budget Session

The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly will convene for its budget session beginning on Friday, with the proceedings scheduled to wrap up on July 26. This session stands out as it heralds the first budget presentation by the Pema Khandu government since securing its third consecutive term. Such a milestone underscores the administration's continued mandate and the expectations for its economic vision. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, who oversees the finance and planning portfolios, is slated to present the annual financial statement for the

fiscal year 2024-25 on July 24, a pivotal moment anticipated by both legislators and the public.

Assembly Secretary Kago Habung has confirmed these crucial dates, ensuring clarity and preparedness among the participants and stakeholders. The session will inaugurate with a motion of thanks to the Governor's address, a customary practice that sets the tone for the legislative discussions ahead. This address by the Governor typically outlines the government's policy intentions and priorities for the coming year, providing a framework within which budget deliberations will occur.

The anticipation surrounding this budget session is palpable, as it will reflect the Khandu administration's strategic initiatives and fiscal policies aimed at driving development in Arunachal Pradesh. Given the state's unique geographical and socio-economic landscape, the budget will likely focus on sectors such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and rural development. The financial roadmap laid out in this session will be instrumental in shaping the state's growth trajectory and addressing the aspirations of its diverse population.

As the legislative assembly gears up for this significant event, the spotlight will be on how the proposed budget aligns with the long-term goals of sustainable development and economic stability. Stakeholders from various sectors will keenly observe the proceedings, expecting comprehensive policies that address both immediate needs and future growth opportunities. The budget session of 2024-25 thus promises to be a defining chapter in the governance and development narrative of Arunachal Pradesh.

Governor's Address and Legislative

Agenda

The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Budget Session 2024-25 commenced with an address by Governor Lt. Gen. (retd) K.T. Parnaik. His speech, delivered during the first session of the eighth legislative assembly held on June 14 and 15, laid the foundational tone for the legislative and budgetary discourse of the upcoming session. The Governor's address emphasized the state's developmental priorities and the strategic legislative agenda that aims to foster economic growth, social equity, and administrative efficiency in Arunachal Pradesh.

On the opening day of the budget session, three significant government bills are scheduled for tabling. The first, 'The Arunachal Pradesh Amending Bill, 2024,' seeks to introduce necessary amendments to existing laws to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing contemporary challenges. This bill is anticipated to streamline legislative frameworks and enhance governance mechanisms across various sectors within the state.

The second bill, 'The Arunachal Pradesh Public Examination (Measures to Prevent Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024,' is a critical legislative initiative aimed at upholding the integrity of public examinations. This bill proposes stringent measures to combat unfair means and malpractices in recruitment processes, thereby ensuring transparency and meritocracy in public employment.

Lastly, 'The Balipara/Tirap/Sadiya Frontier Tract Jhum Land Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2024' focuses on revising regulations concerning jhum cultivation lands. This amendment is crucial for addressing land management issues in the frontier tracts, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of indigenous communities engaged in jhum cultivation.

These bills collectively represent the state's commitment to

legislative reforms and strategic governance. Their successful enactment is expected to pave the way for a more robust, transparent, and inclusive administrative framework in Arunachal Pradesh, aligning with the broader developmental goals outlined by the Governor in his address.



Arunachal Pradesh CM Prema Khandu

Business Advisory Committee Meeting

On Wednesday, Arunachal Assembly Speaker Tesam Pongte presided over a pivotal meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to finalize the agenda for the upcoming budget session. This meeting held significant importance as it aimed to streamline the session's proceedings, ensuring a productive and orderly debate on the proposed budget and legislative bills. Attendees included key political figures such as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona, Deputy Speaker Kardo Nyigyor, as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from various political factions, including Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the National People's Party (NPP), and the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA).

The discussions within the BAC centered around setting a structured agenda that would facilitate comprehensive debates and discussions. This preparatory step is crucial for the smooth functioning of the budget session, allowing legislators to focus on critical issues and proposals with clarity and efficiency. By harmonizing the schedule and topics of discussion, the committee aims to minimize disruptions and ensure that every legislative member gets ample opportunity to voice their insights and concerns regarding the state's fiscal plans and policies.

Speaker Tesam Pongte underscored the importance of collaboration across party lines to achieve a common goal: the welfare and development of Arunachal Pradesh. The BAC's role in this process is indispensable, acting as the guiding force to navigate through the legislative priorities and time allocations efficiently. The presence of high-ranking officials and representatives from diverse political backgrounds highlights a collective commitment to democratic principles and governance.

In conclusion, the Business Advisory Committee's meeting marks a proactive step towards a disciplined and goal-oriented budget session. By laying down a clear roadmap for discussions, the committee ensures that the legislative process remains focused and effective, ultimately benefiting the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Political Dynamics and Support for the Budget

The political dynamics in Arunachal Pradesh are currently characterized by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holding a substantial majority in the 60-member legislative assembly. With 46 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) under its banner, the BJP's dominance is evident. This majority is further bolstered by the support from other

political entities, including the National People's Party (NPP) with five legislators, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction led by Ajit Pawar with three representatives, and the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) with two members. Additionally, three independent MLAs have also pledged their support to the BJP government.

One notable aspect of the current political scenario is the near-universal backing for the BJP-led administration. Except for the Indian National Congress, which has a solitary MLA, all other political factions have extended unconditional support to the government. This extensive support base is anticipated to facilitate a smooth passage of the budget and other legislative proposals during the upcoming session. The broad consensus among the political parties suggests a collaborative approach towards the state's development agenda, potentially leading to a more efficient legislative process.

The implications of this widespread political support are significant. Firstly, it minimizes the likelihood of substantial opposition to the budget, ensuring that the proposed financial allocations and policies can be implemented without major hindrances. Secondly, the cooperative political environment may lead to more robust and inclusive policymaking, as the government is in a position to consider diverse perspectives and inputs from various political stakeholders. Lastly, the strong backing for the BJP government underscores a period of political stability, which is crucial for the effective administration and execution of developmental projects in the state.

Observing how this political unity translates into legislative action during the budget session will be critical. The extent to which the government leverages this support to address key issues and push forward its agenda will be a focal point for both political analysts and the general public.