

**Report on the Visit of
Hon'ble Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences,
Government of India to Itanagar and Kimin Sub-Division, Papum Pare,
Arunachal Pradesh
21st – 23rd December 2016**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, undertook his first ever visit to Itanagar and Kimin Sub-Division, Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh from 21st December to 23rd December 2016, and visited some the important S&T institutions in the States of Arunachal Pradesh where the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has created research facilities for NER scientists. Dr. T. Madhan Mohan, Adviser, DBT accompanied the Hon'ble Union Minister.

On his arrival at Itanagar on 21st December 2016, the Hon'ble Union Minister attended a meeting arranged by Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's conference hall in the Civil Secretariat, Itanagar in which the Hon'ble Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Secretary, Commissioner (s), Secretary (Science and Technology), Chairman, Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology, Director and other Scientists of State S & T Council participated.

The Chief Secretary briefed the Hon'ble Union Minister about various developments of the state as well as various gap areas and the scientists of State S&T Council, State Remote Sensing Application Centre and A.P. Science Centre made detailed presentation about their activities.

After hearing the presentations and comments from other members the following two major recommendations offered by the Hon'ble Minister on this day.

1. Initiation for major twinning programme on medicinal plants specific to the state which are useful for preventing diseases like coronary artery disease curing of cancer, blood pressure and other ailments. This programme is to be initiated as part of DBT, ICMR, Institutions of CSIR like Institute of Nutrition, CFTRI, CDRI and NERIST.
2. The Hon'ble Union Minister also stated that he is going to send an expert committee comprising of members from different discipline for indentifying major gap areas which are to be addressed through his ministry for the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Hon'ble Minister also said that there are ample opportunities to explore the prospects of Medicinal Plants for Sustainable Development and Livelihood in Arunachal Pradesh. He also informed this the Ministry of Science & Technology, Gol, will work coherently with state Science and Tech Council along with DBT, DST and CSIR to identify the bioresources and subsequently:

- i) Put them to proper R&D for medicine development;
- ii) Turn them to viable products that pharmacies can produce commercially for taking it to people.

He appreciated that the state of Arunachal Pradesh is recognized as one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world with over 500 species of medicinal plants reported so far from the state. These medicinal plants can not only cure human ailments but can also be potential source of economy to the state of Arunachal. This will also

open up avenues in cultivation, processing, packaging, marketing and industrial application as some of the medicinal plants are much sought after by pharmaceutical companies.

The Hon'ble Minister hoped that the rural people, particularly the unemployed woman and youths will be benefited by the industrial applications of the medicinal plants. The different agro-climatic conditions in the state and the availability of cultivable lands like the jhum fallows, farm yards, forest lands, river banks, marshy areas, roadsides and the home gardens makes Arunachal Pradesh a prospective State. He stressed that depending on the site suitability and after analyzing economic profitability of the different medicinal plant species, various combinations can be used to make multitier plantation (preferably combinations of trees, shrubs, herbs and climbers).



(Visit of Hon'ble Union Minister to Civil Secretariat)

On 22nd December, the Hon'ble Union Minister visited Kimin Sub-Division, Papum Pare in the State of Arunachal Pradesh which is about 65 kms from Itanagar. There he laid two important foundation stones:

- i) Centre for Bioresources and Sustainable Development in Arunachal Pradesh and
- ii) Rural Technology Centre under the aegis of DBT and DST respectively.

On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister announced the following scientific infrastructure/R&D facilities for the scientific development of the state of Arunachal Pradesh:

- 1) Setting up of a State Level Biotech Hub in Arunachal Pradesh for conducting high end research and training of NER researchers and students aimed at creating employable manpower.
- 2) Setting up an IP Cell in State S&T Council for protection of indigenous traditional knowledge of the state and for protection of research leads from research institution of Arunachal Pradesh
- 3) Establishment of up to 50 Biotech Laboratories at Senior Secondary Schools of Arunachal Pradesh under DBT's BLiSS Scheme to encourage School students to promote practical exposure and learning of science labs.
- 4) Strengthening medical diagnostic facility at medical colleges of Arunachal Pradesh
- 5) Establishment of five Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in different areas of Biotechnology
- 6) Development of Outreach Program Cell (OPC) at State S&T Council, Arunachal Pradesh.
- 7) Establishment of a Biotechnology Innovation Hub (BIHUB) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- 8) Establishment of a Centre for Biotechnology at institutions in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 9) Promote a study on restoration of traditional Natural Dyes as well as setting up of Banana fibre extraction and processing cum training unit for entrepreneurs.

He announced that approximately an amount of Rs.150-200 crores would be invested for the State by DBT, DST, CSIR and ES for a period of Five years.

He was very hopeful that this initiatives of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, GoI, will provide the much needed thrust to the research, development and popularization of Biotechnology and help in judicious utilization of plants & animals and genetic resources of Arunachal Pradesh through the intervention of Biotechnology, in addition to generating employment and opportunities of entrepreneurship for the youth of the State.

The direct Impact of these initiatives would lead to employment generation for more than hundred technical and non-technical personals in the proposed Centre for

Bioresources and Sustainable Development and the State Bio-Technology Hub to be established. The indirect impact was envisaged that the projects on implementation will benefit more 20 to 30 thousand people of the state in finding self-employment through entrepreneurship development

Under Research and Development projects, the studies and R&D projects will provide scope to the local researchers, students for their research works in the field of Biotechnology through their engagement as JRFs and SRFs. The facilities to be created will help in developing linkages with the institutions in the state for carrying out R&D in the field of Biotechnology

The Hon'ble Union Minister was very happy to say that setting up of Biotech laboratory in senior/higher secondary schools under the BLISS programme will directly benefit more than 10000 (Ten Thousand) students and teachers of the state towards promoting education in biotechnology and attracting brilliant young students to the multi-disciplinary research areas.

The outreach programmes will immensely help in generating awareness, enhancing literacy and promoting public understanding of biotechnology in the state. Organizing of the outreach activities will have direct benefit to more than five lakh people including students and general public in the state towards understanding biotechnology in the true perspectives."



(Laying of Foundation Stones)



(Presentation of Traditional attires to Hon'ble Union Minister at Kimin)



Hon'ble Union Minister addressing the public during public reception at Kimin)

After the public speech by the Hon'ble Union Minister visited the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli (An Autonomous Deemed University under MHRD). An integrated bio-diesel reactor has been demonstrated by the scientists of NERIST and as well as Hon'ble Union Minister visited Robotics research centre and also department of forestry. While appreciating their efforts by the Hon'ble Union Minister advised to have effective linkages with the scientists of same field to avoid duplication and also attaining the advancement. The Hon'ble Union Minister has also urged to make effort to transfer the technology to the companies for fruitful applications to the public.



(Hon'ble Union Minister visiting NERIST)

After this the Hon'ble Union Minister visited the Dino Park at Arunachal Pradesh Science Centre, IG Park, Itanagar and witnessed a beautiful film on Dinosaurs unearthed. He applauded for making this effort which Hon'ble Union Minister indeed enjoyed. After this he interacted with school children as well as addressed to the officers, officials of science centre and public who gathered in this part.



On 23rd December, the Hon'ble Union Minister before his departure for Guwahati addressed a Press Conference with representatives from Govt. and private media agencies arranged at the VIP lounge of the Heliport at Naharlagun. Hon'ble Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Commissioner, Secretary (Science & Technology), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Adviser, DBT, GOI and Chairman and officers of Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology were also present in the press conference.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister apprised the media personnel his experience on this maiden visit to Arunachal Pradesh and also elaborated the announcement made by him during his public reception at Kimin on 22nd for the development in the field of science & technology in Arunachal Pradesh through various projects and schemes of DBT, DST, CSIR and ES.

He emphasized that this is only the beginning and look forward to more and more developmental activities in the field of science & technology in Arunachal Pradesh in the days ahead. He assured all possible help from his ministries and the central government in this regard.
