

# ARUNACHAL PRADESH PAST AND PRESENT



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# MITTAL PUBLICATIONS NEW DELHI (INDIA)

# Preface

Arunachal Pradesh (literally meaning the land of rising sun) was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) till 1972. On 20th January 1972, the area was renamed as "Arunachal Pradesh". In the same year it was declared as a full-fledged Union Territory. Due to its strategic location, thus this territory attracted the direct attention of the Government of India and started the slow and arduous journey towards socio-economic and political development, as a distinctive entity in the geo-political framework of the Union of India. It was granted Statehood on 20th February 1987.

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With an area of 83,743 sq. kms., Arunachal Pradesh has population 1096702 (2001 census). The territory is in the extreme north-eastern part of India, lying between 26.28' and 29.31' north latitudes and 90 31' and 97 30' east longitudes. The area is bound by China and Tibet in the

north, Myanmar in the east, Bhutan in the West and Nagaland and Assam States in the south. International border is about 1,628 km. The region is very rich in natural resources, viz. forest products, minerals (coal, gas and petroleum) and hydel power. There are 24 major and 86 sub-tribes residing in different places of the State. All of them speak varient Tibeto-Burman languages.

Administratively, with Capital seated at Itanagar, currently Arunachal Pradesh has sixteen districts, thirty six sub-divisions, 57 development blocks and 149 circles. Barring a few major towns namely-Itanagar, Naharlagun, Tawang, Pasighat, Tezu, Bomdila, Seppa, Ziro, Khonsa, Along, Roing, Yingkiong, Rupa, Namsai etc. major population of Arunachal Pradesh is in rural areas. Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 60 members. The state is represented by one member in Rajya Sabha and two members in Lok Sabha. Recent elections to legislative assembly were held in Oct. 2004. The veteran leader Gegong Apang has sworn in as Chief Minister under Congress (I) party. Endowed with rich natural resourcesforests, minerals and hydel power Arunachal is industrially far backward. Tourism and horticulture have immense potential for development. Infrastructure development is to be focused on. Despite its rugged mountainous terrain Arunachal is marching ahead.

This book is an humble effort to portray Arunachal Pradesh multifacetedly, i.e. the past history, culture, tribal ethos, society, administration, rituals and festivals, besides the advent of present administration, development efforts, politics and modernisation, etc. To make the book comprehensive and authentic the material is derived from authoritative sources. Sources of information are all secondary—books, journals, Reports, Govt. documents, travelogues, research findings of different scholars and study teams.

The information is gathered under eleven chapters, namely – Arunachal Pradesh: The Land of Rising Sun; Social

Dynamics; Development Efforts in Arunachal Pradesh; Agricultural and Economy; The Tribal Ethos; Wildlife in Arunachal Pradesh; Socio-Political Structure; Glimpses of Bori Society; The Hill Miris; Society and Social Organisation of the Daflas; Arunachal in Transition; etc.

I am immensely grateful to all those great men of letters whose expert opinions and research findings are borrowed and reproduced here. Though the individual names are listed in the bibliography, those who missed the mention is unintentional. In fact, real credit goes to all of them—as I have contented merely to compile and organise the material in the present shape. I remain grateful to my parents and family members for their inspiration, moral support and physical help. I am thankful to my friends and well wishers too. Finally, I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Shri K.M. Rai Mittal of Mittal Publications, New Delhi for his fascinating love for North East India in general and bringing out this book in particular.

It is hoped, the present endeavour, multidisciplinary in nature, will prove informative to academics as well as general readers. With this earnest hope, I dedicate this to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and to those at the helm of affairs of governance and administration of the State.

H. G. Joshi

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## Arunachal Pradesh: The Land of Rising Sun

Area: 83,743 sq km Population: 10,96,702 (2001 Census)

Capital: Itanagar Principal Languages: Monpa, Miji,

Aka, Sherdukpen, Bangni, Nigshi, Apatani, Tagin, Hill Miri, Adi, Gallong, Digaru-Mishmi, Idu-Mishmi, Miju-Mishmi, Khampti,

Nocte, Tangsa and Wancho.

History of Arunachal Pradesh goes back to hundreds of years into mists of tradition and myth. Local tradition regards the country around Sadiya as the ancient Vidarbha. Ancient *Puranas* have many references to the region. Recorded history of Arunachal Pradesh can be traced only when Ahom kings began to rule Assam in the 16th century. Modern history of Arunachal Pradesh begins with the inception of British rule in Assam after the Treaty of Yandaboo concluded on 24 February 1826. The British took possession of Assam in 1838. British government had brought Arunachal Pradesh also under their administrative control. After Independence, it was a part of North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), and later, made a Union Territory. On 20 February 1987 Arunachal Pradesh was given status of a full-fledged State.

Arunachal Pradesh is skirted by Bhutan in west, Tibet and China in north and north-east, Myanmar to east and

Assam in South. It consists of the submontane and mountainous ranges sloping to the plains of Assam. It is the largest state area-wise in north-east region.

#### Agriculture

Mountainous terrain of Arunachal Pradesh is composed of a variety of tribes. Barring a few towns, entire area is rural where an overwhelming 94 per cent of its population lives scattered in 3,257 villages grouped under 48 integrated rural development blocks. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people, who by and large, follow a slash and burn method of shifting cultivation called jhum practised on rain-fed slopes of forest hills and dales. Cultivators constitute 35.33 per cent of the total population and they represent 72.29 per cent of the total number of workers engaged in different economic activities. About four per cent of the total geographical area was brought under agriculture till August 1987, while forests covered about 62 per cent of the area. Gross cropped area was 2,19,000 hectare, of which 52.52 per cent was under ihum and the rest under permanent cultivation wet-rice and terraced rain-fed cropping. Rice is the principal crop and other important crops are maize, millet, wheat, pulses, potato, sugarcane and oilseeds. Ecological conditions in Arunachal Pradesh are congenial for the growth of horticulture. Besides pineapple, orange, lemon, lichi, papaya, banana, guava, temperate fruits such as apple, plum, pear, peach, cherries, walnut, almond etc., are grown in above 1,400 horticultural gardens. Gramsevak Training Centre and Farmers' Training Centre at Pasighat impart training in scientific methods of rural development and agriculture respectively.

#### Minerals and Industries

Endowed with abundant forest, mineral and hydel power resources, Arunachal Pradesh has a high industrial potential. Coal reserve of the State comprising Namchik-Namphuk coal mine in Tirap district is estimated at about 900 lakh tonnes. This coal mine has been leased out to Coal India

Limited for commercial exploitation. Estimated crude oil reserve is 15 lakh tonnes. Vast deposits of dolomite exist at Rupa in West Kameng district. Limestone deposits at Tidding in Lohit district indicates a reserve of 910 lakh tonnes. Limestone is alos found at Hunli in Dibang Valley district and Menga in Upper Subansiri district. Besides those, reserve of graphite, quartzite, kyanite, mica, iron and copper ores are also reported. Remarkable progress has been achieved in the field of cottage industries, of which weaving, basketry and carpet-making is notable. Small scale industries numbering 2,455 in 1991-92 (5,224 in 2003) comprise saw, rice and oil mills, fruit preservation, soap and candle manufacturing units, steel fabrication, wood works and so on. Medium industries 18 in number, are all forest-based, producing veneers, teachests and plyboards. Besides these, there are 25 sericulture centres. Important industries are light roofing sheet factory at Pasighat, fruit processing plant at Nigmoi in West Siang district, the cement plant at Tezu, lemon grass oil expeller unit at Tawang and Citronella distillation plant at Pasighat. An electronic unit has been set up at Itanagar for assembling television sets, quartz clocks, minimicrophones, radio etc. Technical education and training in middle-level engineering is imparted in Industrial Training Institute at Roing. There are 64 craft and weaving centres providing training facilities and producing utility articles which are marketed through a number of emporia. Industrial estates have been established at Itanagar, Nanarlagun, Pasighat and Deomali. Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development and Financial Corporation Limited, Itanagar provides subsidised industrial loans to the small-scale and medium industries. Newly established North-Eastern Institute of Science and Technology (Niriuli), Itanagar is the first of its kind in this part of the country.

#### Irrigation and Power

Jhum fields on the slopes of hills under *jhum* cultivation are rain-fed, patches of land under terrace and wet-rice cultivation, particularly in riverine tracts and along foothill

belt, are irrigated usually by small gravity channels and diversion weirs. Pumping sets are also used for irrigation of small holdings. Under the minor irrigation project 87,578 hectare of land was brought under irrigation potential. Number of micro and small hydel stations commissioned till March 1986 was 22 total installed capacity of about 21,370 kw. Currently total installed capacity of state is about 30,735 MW. Electricity was extended to 3,649 villages in the state.

**Transport** 

Arunachal Pradesh has 330 km of national highway.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area, Population and Headquarters of Districts

District		Area	Population	Headquarters	
1.	Changlang	4,662	1,24,994	Changlang	
2.	Dibang Valley	13,029	57,543	Anini	
3.	East Kameng	4,134	57,065	Seppa	
4.	East Siang	4,005	87,430	Pasighat	
5.	Lohit	11,402	1,43,478	Tezu	
6.	Lower Subansiri	13,135	97,614	Ziro	
7.	Tawang	2,172	34,705	Tawang	
8.	Tirap	2,362	1,00,227	Khonsa	
9.	Upper Subansiri	7,032	54,995	Daporijo	
10.	West Kameng	7,422	74,525	Bomdila	
11.	West Siang	8,325	1,03,675	Along	
12.	Paum Pare	2,875	1,21,750	Yupia	
13.	Upper Siang	6,188	33,140	Yingkiong	
14.	Kurung-Kumey	NA	NA	Laaying Yangte	

Source: India 2003, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

#### Education

Sl.	Items	Unit	Number
1	University	Nos.	. 1
2	Engineering Institution	Nos.	1
3	Polytechnic	Nos.	1
4	Industrial Training Institute	Nos.	3
5	Farmers Training Institute	Nos.	1
6	Horticulture & Forestry College	Nos.	1
7	Colleges	Nos.	7
8	Higher Secondary School	Nos.	68
9	Middle School	Nos.	109
10	Junior basic/Primary School	Nos.	1289
11	Pre Primary School	Nos.	46
12	School for Handicapped	Nos.	1
13	Teacher Training	Nos.	1

#### **Details of Higher Educational Institutes**

1. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology

District: Papumpare, was established in 1983. Has 11 Dept. with around a 1000 students.

- 2. Arunachal University
  - District: Papumpare, was established in 1985.
- Industrial Training Institute, Roing
   District: Dibang Valley, was established in 1980.
- Industrial Training Institute, Daporijo
   District: Upper Subansiri, was established in 1972.
- 5. Industrial Training Institute, Ridc District: West Kemang

#### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Sl.	Items	Unit	Number
1.	CD/RD Blocks	Nos.	56
2.	Village covered by blocks	Nos.	3639
3.	No. of SHG formed under SGSY	Nos.	1
4.	No. of members covered under SGSY	Nos.	5
5.	No. of individual sarroghar	Nos.	3055
6.	No. of new houses under IAY	Nos.	2485
7.	No. of houses upgraded under IAY	Nos.	725
8.	No. of mandays generated under EAS	In lakh	26.25

Various Schemes Undertaken by Rural Development Department:

- Panchayati Raj
- Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
- Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
- Employment Assurance Scheme
- Indira Awaas Yojana
- National Social Assistance Programme
- Training
- Council for Advancement of People's Action & Rural Technology

#### **NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY 2001**

			2000-2001
S1.	Items	Unit I	Area/ Productio n
1	Gross cropped area	in '000 Meet.	240
2	Net area sown	in '000 Hect.	197
. 3	Land under permanent cultivation	in '000 Hect.	89

4	Area irrigated	in '000 Hect.	39
5	Area under manure/fertilizer	in '000 Hect.	22
6	Area under HYV/lmproved seed	in '000 Hect.	58
7	Area under plant protection-	in '000 Hect.	37
9	Area under food grains	in '000 Hect.	184
10	Area under pulses	in '000 Hect.	7
11	Area under oil seeds	in '000 Hect.	28
12	Food grains production	in '000 MT.	205
13	Pulses production	in '000 MT.	7

#### Tourism-

Department of Tourism, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has made a humble beginning to create tourism infrastructure at different locations. It may be noted that Arunachal Pradesh has tremendous scope for development of various types of tourism activities, such as Cultural tourism, Adventure tourism, Historical tourism, Wildlife tourism, Nature based tourism and Eco-tourism. Any developmental programme tapping the latent tourism potential of the state, need to be based on sound understanding of the ground realities and the general of basic infrastructure development.

In spite of vast tourism potential, Arunachal Pradesh so long remained unexplored to the outside world due to general backwardness of the area in terms of low road length, absence of rail links and airstrips, remoteness and inaccessibility of the area, lack of infrastructural development which holds the progress of development in check and the imposition of Restricted Area Permit (RAP), Protected Area Permit (PAP) and Inner Line Permit (ILP) system.

Keeping in view all the factors and rich tourism potentiality of the State, the Deptt. of Tourism, during last couple of years had taken up various developmental programmes to boost up tourism activities in the state. Some of the achievement made during these period in infrastructural sector are:-

- Construction of Tourist Lodges at Dirang, Darak, Zemithang and Ziro.
- Construction of Cafeteria at Itanagar and Dirang.
- Construction of Coffee House -cum-guest House at Mayudia.
- Construction of Hawa Garh at Itanagar and Yazali.
- Construction of View point at Namdang and Darkang.
- Electrification at Ganga Lake have been completed.
- Development around Malinithan was completed.

In addition to above schemes, the following projects have also been taken up recently under Central financial assistance:

- Construction of Cafeteria at Tenga Valley, Sessa, Lumla and Jang.
- Construction of Cafeteria-cum-Souvenir shop at Tipi.
- Construction of basic amenities at Zemithang and Tawang.
- Construction of approach road at Tourist Lodge, Zemithang.

The Deptt. Of Tourism proposes to take up more such developmental schemes and exploring more of places of tourist interests in the form of providing infrastructural facilities such as construction of tourist lodges tourist, huts, hawa garhs, wayside amenities, development of lakes, of all types of adventure sports, etc at various places of tourist interests in near future.

#### Other General Information

#### Accommodation

In each tourist center, there are neat and clean Govt. accommodation like Circuits House or inspection Bungalow and Tourist Lodges with limited seats available for the tourists which are to be booked well in advance from the respective

district Adininistrations. There are also private run hotels available in most of the tourist centers.

**Transport** 

The State Transport buses are operating on daily or on every alternative days from Itanagar to some of the District head Quarters where tourist centers are located. Local taxis are also available at all tourist centers from Itanagar or from the nearest airports and railway stations like Guwahati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh. Further, Itanagar and all the District head Quarters are connected with the rest of the country and the world with STD and ISD facilities.

#### Travel circuits

There are at present six main tourist travel circuits namely:

- Tezpur Bomdila Tawang .
- Itanagar Ziro Daporijo Along Pasighat.
- Pasighat Jenging Yingkiong .
- Dibrugarh-Roing-Anini.
- Tinsukia Tezu Hauliang .
- Margerita Miao Namdapha.

#### ECONOMICS

#### Introduction

Directorate of Economics & Statistics is the apex Statistical Organisation in the state. It is entrusted with the works of collection, compilation, analysis and interpretation of varied statistics and dissemination of them in the form of various publications to cater the needs of Central and State Govt.

#### Features/Achievements

(a) The 56<sup>th</sup> round of National Sample Survey (NSS) on "Economics & Operational characteristics of small manufacturing enterprise in unorganized sector" has been successfully completed in 192 rural samples &

- 80 urban samples spread over all districts in the State. The survey was completed in 30th June, 2001 and State Samples as well as Central Samples have been covered by our field agency.
- (b) Conduct of house listing operation of population census 2001, final enumeration of population census 2001 throughout the State, Post enumeration survey to evaluate the coverage error and content error in population census 2001 was organized in the State and the Directorate is the nodal agency.
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh registration of Births & Deaths Rules, 2001 under Births & Deaths Act 1969 have been framed and published in Arunachal Pradesh Gazette (Part III) dated Mar 2, 2001.
- (d) The Department has brought out the following publications/reports for official use during 2000-2001.
  - The report of 50th round NSS on "Employment / Un-employment & Consumer Expenditure of Arunachal Padesh".
  - 2. Budget in brief for the year 2000-2001:
  - 3. Press note on quick estimation of State Domestic Products 1999-2000.
  - 4. Annual Report of 1998 on working of the registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - 5. Arunachal at a Glance 2000.
  - 6. Arunachal Pradesh Statistical Abstract- 1999.
  - 7. Arunachal Pradesh Economic Review 1999.
  - 8. Annual Administrative Report, 1998 1999.
  - Fact Book of Manpower in Arunachal Pradesh status paper on demand and availability, 1998 -1999.
  - 10. Quarterly retail price bulletin covering all district Head Quarters of the State upto 1999.

- 11. Political, administrative and development maps of Arunachal Predesh.
- 12. Tawang District at a Glance 2000.
- 13. District Statistical Hand Book of Tawang District 1999.
- 14. District Socio-Economic Review of Tawang District 1999.
- 15. Block Level Statistics of Tawang District 1999.
- 16. West Kameng District at a Glance 2000.
- 17. District Statistical Hand Book of West Kameng District 1999.
- 18. District Socio-Economic Review of West Kameng District 1999.
- 19. East Kameng District at a Glance 2000.
- 20. District Statistical Hand Book of East Kameng District 2000.
- 21. District Socio-Economic Review of East Kameng District 1999.
- 22. Block Level Statistics of East Kameng District 2000.
- 23. Lower Subansiri at a Glance 1998.
- 24. District Statistical Hand Book of Lower Subansiri District 2000.
- 25. District Socio-Economic Review of Lower Subansiri District 1998.
- 26. Block Level Statistics of Lower Subansiri District 1999.
- 27. Upper Subansiri District at a Glance 1999.
- 28. District Statistical Hand Book of Upper Subansiri District 1999.
- 29. District Socio-Economic Review of Upper Subansiri District 1999.
- 30. Papum pare District at a Glance 1999.
- 31. District Statistical Hand Book of Papum Pare District 1998.

- 32. District Socio-Economic Review of Papum Pare District 1998.
- 33. Block Level Statistics of Papum Pare District.
- 34. West Siang District at a Glance 2000
- 35. District Statistical Hand Book of West Siang District 1998.
- 36. District Socio-Economic Review of West Siang District 1999.
- 37. Block Level Statistics of West Siang District 1999.
- 38. East Siang District at a Glance 1999.
- 39. District Statistical Hand Book of East Siang District 1999.
- 40. District Socio-Economic Review of East Siang District 1999.
- 41. Block Level Statistics of East Siang District 1 999.
- 42. Upper Siang District at a Glance 2000.
- 43. District Statistical Hand Book of Upper Siang District 1999.
- 44. District Socio-Economic Review of Upper Siang District 1999.
- 45. Block Level Statistics of Upper Siang District 1 999.
- 46. Dibang Valley District at a Glance 2000.
- 47. District Statistical Hand Book of Dibang Valley District 2000.
- 48. District Socio-Economic Review of Dibang Valley District 1997.
- 49. Block Level Statistics of Dibang Valley District.
- 50. Lohit District at a Glance 2000.
- 51. District Statistical Hand Book of Lohit District 1999.
- 52. District Socio-Economic Review of Lohit District 1999.
- 53. Block Level Statistics of Lohit District 1997.

- 54. Changlang District at a Glance 2000.
- 55. District Statistical Hand Book of Changlang District 2000.
- 56. District Socio-Economic Review of Changlang District 1999.
- 57. Block Level Statistics of Changlang District 2000.
- 58. Tirap District at a Glance 1999.
- 59. District Statistical Hand Book of Tirap District 1999.
- 60. District Socio-Economic Review of Tirap District 1999.
- 61. Block Level Statistics of Tirap District 1999.
- (e) The District Domestic Product for the 13 Districts had been prepared for the first time during 2000 2001 and published as per the guidelines of the C.S.O. Besides, the GSDP & NSDP and per capita income in current and constant prices are regular feature. Quick estimate up to 1999 2000 already published.

Catered the data needs by Central Govt. agencies, State Govt. agencies; and

- (f) Scholars, researchers and data users.
  - 1. Population

Male : 573,951

Female : 517, 166

2. Literate Persons : 487,796

3. Literacy Rate : 54.74%

4. **Sex Ratio** : 901 females to 1000

males

5. Member of Parliament

Rajya Sabha : 1

Lok Sabha : 2

6. Member of : 60 Legislative Assembly

7. Major Health Centres

General Hospitals : 3

District Hospitals : 11

8. Places of Historical &

Tourist Interest: Bhismaknagar,

Malinithan, Parashuram Kund

Itanagar, Tawang Monastery, Namdapha

Monastery, Namuapha

Wild life Sanctury: Tippi Orchid Centre,

Akashiganga.

10. State Bird : Hornbill

11. State Animal : Mithun (Bos Frontails)

12. State Flower : Rhynchostylis Retusa

(Fox tail ORCHID)

13. Major Tribes : 20

Adi, Nyishi (including BANGRU & PUROIKA Apatani, Bugun, Galo, Hrusso, Koro, Meyor, Monpa, Tagin, Mishmi (including IDU, TAROAN & KAMMANi, Sajolang, Sartang, Tai Khamti (including KHAMYANGI, Tangshang (including MUKLOM, LONCHANG, TUTSA, TIKHAK, HAWOI, LONGRI, MUNGREY, MUSHAUNG, LUNGPHI, JOGLAI, NGAIMONG, PONTHAI, KHALAK, LUNGHAI, HALLEY, CHELLIM, SHECHU, SHIANGWAL. RERA, SHIANGTEE, DOME, MOITAL, HATSENG, GAJEE, GAJA, KOCHONG, LOWCHANG, LAKI, GALLON, CHAMCHANG, RINGKHU, SHOHRA, BOWNGTAI, RONGRANG etc. of Changlang district and NOCTE, WANCHOO and TUTSA of Tirap district), Yobin, Singpho, Sherdukpen, Khamba, Memba.

14. Highest Peak in the State

: Kangte (7090 mts. MSL), in West Kameng District.

15. Important Minerals:

Dolomite, Graphite, Coal, Quartzite, Limestone, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Yellow Ochre, Marble.

16. Other Natural Potential

 Abundant forest resources and hydro-power potential.

17. Important Wild Life

Animals

Mithun, Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, White Browed Gibbon, Red Panthers, Musk Deer.

Birds

: Hornbill, White Winged Duck, Green Pigeon, Sclater Monal, Bengal Florican, Temminick's Tragopan.

18. Important Festivals:

Mopin, Solung, Nyokum, Lossar, Si-Donyi, Booriboot, Dree, Reh, Sipong Yong, Chalo-loku, Kshyatsowai, Tamladu, Sarok, Nichido, Sangken, Mopin, Oriah etc.

19. National Parks

Namdapha, Mouling.

20. Main Rivers

: Siang, Kameng, Subansiri, Kamla, Siyum, Dibang, Lohit, Noa - Dihing, Kamlang, Tirap. **21.** No. of Districts : 16

Tawang, West Kameng, East Kameng, Papumpare, Lower Subansiri, Upper Subansiri, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Lohit, Changlang, Tirap, Kurung

Kumey, Anjaw.

22. District
Headquarters

: Tawang, Bomdila, Seppa, Yupia, Ziro, Daporijo, Pasighat, Along, Yingkiong, Anini, Roing,

Tezu, Changlang, Khonsa, Laying-Yangte, Hawai

23. No. of Sub-Divisions: 36

24. No. of Blocks : 57

25. No. of Circles : 149

26. Major Towns

: Itanagar, Naharlagun, Tawang, Bomdila, Rupa, Bhalukpong, Seppa, Ziro, Daporijo, Along, Pasighat, Yingkiong, Roing, Tezu, Namsai, Khonsa.