

S P Shukla

Strategy for Integrated Development of Arunachal Pradesh

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Even though the country has a Planning Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister and a wholetime Deputy Chairman, often the micro regions, like Arunachal Pradesh, do not find their due focus and the priority, they do so badly need and so abundantly deserve. The treatise in hand tries to fill that void. The book focuses on the development issues of the micro-region and brings the pearls of wisdom out of the imbroglio of development milieu of the state under reference.

It is expected to assist the Planning bodies, administrators, planners, educators and teachers in projecting the development issues and also in suggesting viable and practical solutions. The seventh chapter examines the various government planning models/schemes and goes on to suggest the most comprehensive, technically sound and easy to implement, model for the development of the state in coming years and decades.

The book being the outcome of years of research evolves an all encompassing approach to numerous issues, which are often unique to the region, tries to unfold even the problems that are very specific and special to this hill state of India.

Rs. 395

S.P. SHUKLA (b. 1939) in the rural environs of eastern Uttar Pradesh, is a self made man. Destiny placed him in the laps of Eastern Himalayas when he travelled to NEFA (Arunachal Pradesh) in 1962. Ever since he has remained deeply involved in the upliftment of the tribal society of the state. For more than 38 years he remained associated not only with the land and people of the area but also with socio-cultural, geopolitical and economic growth of the region. It is, therefore, but natural that barring a few of his writings, all of them (8 books, 31 research papers) find a base in the grains and the multitudes of the state.

Strategy for Integrated Development of Arunachal Pradesh is the ninth book of the scholar and is a clear reflection of the author's vision about the economic development of the State.

ISBN 81-8324-063-1

**STRATEGY
FOR
INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT
OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

S.P. SHUKLA



**MITTAL PUBLICATIONS
NEW DELHI (INDIA)**

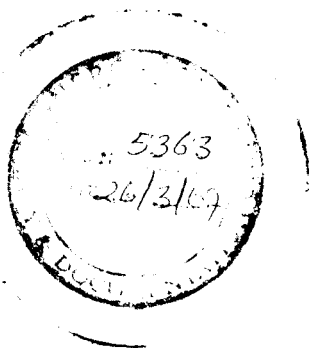
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163

First Edition 2006

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ISBN 81-8324-063-1



Showroom:

4594/9, Daryaganj,
New Delhi - 110002
Phone: 23250398



005363

Published and printed by Krishan Mittal for Mittal Publications,
A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059, India.

Tel.: 25351493, 25351976 *Telefax:* 91-11-25351521

E-Mail: mittalp@ndf.vsnl.net.in *Gram:* Mittalbox

website: www.mittalbooks.com

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	vii
1. Strategy for Integrated Development of Arunachal Pradesh	1
2. Arunachal Pradesh —Developmental Practices and Outcome	21
3. The State's Development Base and Support	45
4. The State's Development Questions of Relevance and Ethics	69
5. Developmental Recourse that Arunachal Pradesh Requires	87
6. Integrated Area Development Explanation and Experience	107
7. Integrated Development of Arunachal —Strategies and Expertise	125
<i>Appendix</i>	151
<i>Index</i>	165

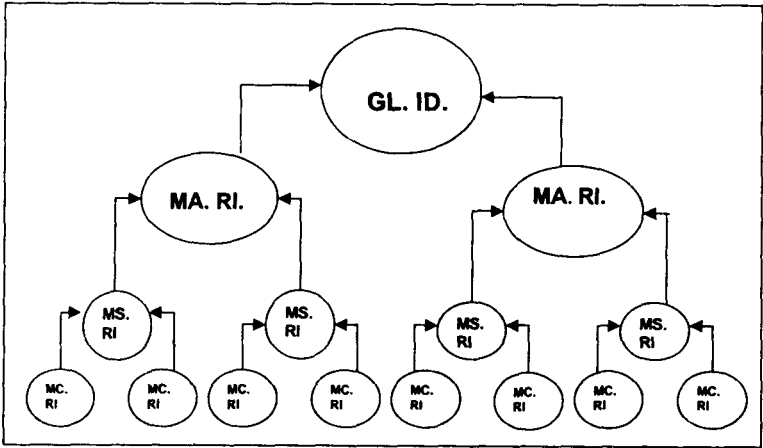
STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Core Comprehension

Comprehension of identity is basic to all-academic exercises and practical endeavour in particular spatial context. Our planet creates two-dimensional spatial identities:

- (i) The composite global, and
- (ii) The segmented regional.

The global identity characterizes the composite whole of physical and cultural ingredients in the world perspective. The segmented identity signifies regional distinctiveness in terms of homogeneity in physio-economic and socio-cultural environment at the same area scales of the world space organization. The territorial segmentation follows the course of identification of parts of the earth surface with reference to extended homogenous distinction of spatial organizational system within an arbitrary fixed area boundary. The course of identification facilitates the comprehension of relevant comparative regional identities at macro, meso and micro scales. This provides, in turn, a better understanding of the details, specifics, minutes and reals as engrained in the wholeness of the composite global identity. The global identity refers, thus, to a composite world spatial organization aggregated by the elements of physical and cultural landscapes within the frame of micro → meso → macro regional identities. The mechanism of aggregation may be illustrated as follows:



GL.ID - GLOBAL IDENTITY
MA.RI - MACRO REGIONAL IDENTITY
MS.RI - MESO REGIONAL IDENTITY
MC.RI - MICRO REGIONAL IDENTITY

The comprehension of Macro→Meso→Micro identities does not signify absolute regional scales. It refers to relative segmentation of a large area into adequately expansive regional units in hierarchic sequences of large, medium and small sizes to fit into divisions of first, second and third orders. The regions of different scales emerge to count as: higher the order, lower the numbers and vice versa. Following this principle a nation is divided into larger (Macro) geographic regions, then into medium (Meso) state units and still then states into further area units of distinction (Micro). The earth (world) has been studied to locate its identity in regional perspectives, viz. Geography of the continents, geography of countries and geography of still smaller segmented parts of it. The regional study exercises have resulted into availability of adequately comprehensive discourse of physio-economic and socio-cultural facets of ecumene world in time and space context. We find, accordingly, many parts of the inhabited world, which display their regional identities to glare. We have, however, still many parts of global spatial system which comprehensively lack proper regional discourse to have what may be termed as camouflaged identity.

A key comprehension to the issue of regional identity is also related to the fact that it is not fixed in time. It, rather evolves in response to observers penetration into ever complex internal geography of any particular part. Regional identity becomes, in the context of a particular area, an outcome of the extent of awareness to the nature of the geographic ingredients and the increasing comprehension of the emerging spatial organizational system through the corridors of time. The present regional identity may, therefore, be viewed not as an end of the past identity, but as a beginning of future identity. World experiences amply show that nations have emerged from oblivion to mark their presence of reckoning. Many others are showing their uneasiness and restlessness to make a place of recognition. The race is on, among nations of the world, to explore and expose to reveal their exhumed identity at the best.

Arunachal Pradesh happens to represent a case to respond well to the comprehension of the issues, as related to identity of a region. Its age-long isolation in terms of physical settings and seclusion of the inhabitants has contributed, assertively, to contain its regional identity within since long. Arunachal Pradesh seems, however, to rise from its camouflage and to make unstoppable stride to carve out its present multi dimensional identity in the name of a distinctive regional segment of the union of India. The situation arouses natural interest among academicians and practitioners of development to have in-depth comprehension of it and to accelerate its march.

2. Arunachal Pradesh : Identity Expression

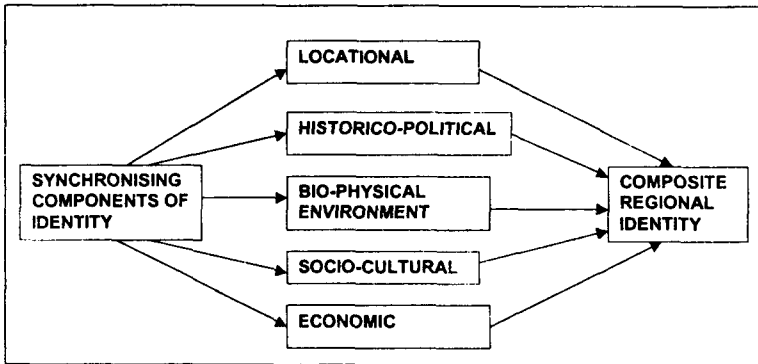
“Land of Rising Sun”, “A sprawling mountainous territory”, “A land of mighty rocks”, “A land of gentle streams and ragging torrents”, “A land of deep gorgeous rivers and valleys”, “A land of beautiful plateaus”, “A land of bio-diversity hot spot”, “A home to many tribes”, “A land crowned with an expanse of blue - Green mountain ranges of the great Himalayas stretching away to hazy sky line”, “A state of archial paradise”,

“A land of rich cultural diversity”, “A land of vivid and colourful dimensions”, “A land of dales and valleys”, “A land of Jhums and Jhumias”. These are some of the many prevalent sobriquets that provide common expressions and unique identity of Arunachal Pradesh.

“The magic of the first kiss of the sun on the snowy mountain peaks, the mystery of green-gold woodlands, serenity of the lush green valleys, quick murmuring of the streams and the roaring of the mighty rivers in spate aroused in the colourful tribes inhabiting the picturesque north eastern tip of India, a restless desire to express their soul’s emotions.” This excerpt reveals the symbiotic physio-cultural ties between grains of land and souls of people that the territory of Arunachal Pradesh inherits.

“ The abundance of flora and fauna, the river systems, the mineral resources including liquid gold pose Arunachal Pradesh to be one of the potentially richest states in India”. “The faith and cultural heritage, the historical evidences in the foot hill areas are the proud legacy of about 25 major tribes of the state. These legacies have been the basis of the traditional democratic set up in Arunachal Pradesh”. These somber exudations define unique identity of the Indian State of uniqueness and diversities.

Arunachal Pradesh’s identity may, however, be understood only by knowing Arunachal and Arunachalese. It is the components of physical and cultural landscapes that synchronize the region’s identity in the memory of academicians and researchers. The wide awareness to the minutes of elements of synchronization may alone facilitate proper comprehension of emerging and evolving identity. The region’s composite identity becomes the exposition of the nature and degree of knowledge and understanding about physio-cultural situations, as they prevail and intermingle. The comprehensive mechanism of establishing regional identity may be grasped as follows:



Regions identity finds its expression through geographic wholeness of the area. The region's geographic wholeness is, however, defined by the synchronization of the diverse physical and cultural components within some arbitrarily ascertained boundary to determine specific location. The reference of a region has acquired meaning to academic exercises, because this adds to the practical value of the exercise. It also emerges to be imperative to establish regional identity of the Area of study in reference. This makes the study relevant in spatial context. Arunachal's identity may be comprehended in terms of its internal geographic expressions at different scales of area's uniqueness. Let us know Arunachal Pradesh as it is!

3. Arunachal Pradesh : Where it is?

The concept of location is basic to all geographical knowledge. It relates to the primary knowledge of space extent and regional placing determination. The locational identity of Arunachal Pradesh is mapped with reference to its site and situation over India. The geographic site is defined between latitudinal extent of 26-deg. 30 minutes north to 29deg. 30minutes north and longitudinal extent of 91 deg. 30 minutes East to 97 deg. 30 minutes East. The state spans over an actual ground occupance of 83,743 sq. KM, set within the limit of three degrees of latitudinal and six degrees of longitudinal spread. The absolute territorial expanse presents unique size and shape components of locational attributes. Arunachal

Pradesh excels all other states of Northeast in terms of territorial size. It emerges to be overbound by virtue of its physical shape. The territorial site carves out for the most part a normal geometric form of a rectangle. The rectangular state block lays SW - NE extension. The southeast spatial block intrudes, however, to be tugged with the almost rectangular mass to break its shape homogeneity.

Regional location of Arunachal Pradesh is defined to express relative spatial position of its absolute site with reference to neighbouring international and state boundaries. It signifies, to this count, a perfectly land-locked territory. Its boundaries extend to exceed 2500 KM in length. It is identified on the map of Asia (South-East Asia, in particular) by its separation from international boundaries of Bhutan in the west, of Tibet in the north, of Sinkiang, China in the North-East and of Burma (now Myanmar) in the east and the Indian state borders of Nagaland in the south-east and of Assam in the south.

The regional identity is, more apparently, exposed by defining the nature and extent of inter-regional and intra-regional accessibility and connectivity in area and place perspectives. The state of Arunachal Pradesh presents a position of accessibility constraint both in terms of approaches within and outside. Forming the northeastern segment of India, Arunachal Pradesh may be approached by section of North Frontier railways, which runs almost parallel to the southern boundary of the state. The inter-regional links of Arunachal Pradesh are facilitated by Itanagar - the capital, Along and Pasighat towns which have access to Hamuty, Shilapathar and Murkongselek - the eastern most, railway Stations of the rail section linked at Rangia Junction to Guahati - Kolkata - Delhi line. These towns are adequately accessed by road services from Guahati. The state has, thus, developed its opening into Assam valley from inter-regional approachability. The intra-regional accessibility is available in the form of road connectivity facilitating point to point approach among major places, usually district headquarters. Besides, places not served by motorable roads are provided access by helicopters, largely from defense and administrative or political reasons.

In its locational identity, Arunachal Pradesh forms the physical parts of the larger Eastern Himalayas and the Purvanchal regions and has existed in various degrees of isolation and seclusion. A look at the map of India substantiates the state's locational identity.

4. Arunachal Pradesh : What Historical and Political Marks it had Possessed?

Arunachal Pradesh may be said to possess long historical events of space occupancy, but a short sequence of political evolution. The historical identity is painted through the process of peopling of the region in temporal sequences. The dating of historical events is, however, put to suspicion in reference to antiquity. The region's historical identity is mirrored through temporal domain of cultural landscape punctuating the ordained physical landscape. The historical identity of Arunachal must have been the creation of region's forest cover mountain geography and gorgeous mighty rivers flowing on precipitous high slope gradient. The biophysical elements have dictated the modest human incursions on limited spread by responding to negotiate and accommodate. Human habitation has, historically, been contained to grow and to intensify. The present scale and pace of regional population reveal the historical processes contributing towards sequences of growing or evolving identity.

Arunachal Pradesh has inherited a long history of territorial existence. The history of its political appearance may, however, be correlated after the first decade of the twentieth century. The emergence of the political identity of the state region has been a reorganizational process outcome. The today's state unit appears on the political map of India after going through a number of sequential events of territorial organization and reorganization and fixation of administrative status.

The comprehension of political identity of Arunachal Pradesh may be facilitated by the construction of a political calendar, which follows:

- It attaches its historical parentage to Assam.
- 1914: Separation of some tribal areas from the then Darrang and Lakhimpur district of Assam to create a

separate political identity to be known as North -East Frontier Tract (NEFT)

- 1914-1943 : Division of NEFT into Balipara Frontier Tract (BFT), Sadiya Frontier Tract (SFT), and Tirap Frontier Tract (TFT).
- 1947 : Included in part B of the sixth schedule of the constitution as the tribal areas of Assam. NEFT included BFT and TFT along with Abor Hills District, the Mishmi Hills District and the Naga tribal areas
- 1951: Renaming of NEFT, as identified in part B of the constitution as NEFA (North East Frontier Agency).
- 1954 : Reconstitution of NEFA under north east Frontier Areas (administration) Regulation of 1954 into Kameng Frontier Division (KFD), Subansiri Frontier Division (SFD), Siang Frontier Division (SiFD), Lohit Frontier Division (LFD), Tirap Frontier Division (TFD), Tuensang Frontier Division (TuFD).
- 1957 : Separation TuFD from NEFA to be merged with newly constituted Naga Hills to identify the new state of Nagaland.
- 1965 : Transfer of administration of NEFA under ministry of Home Affairs from Governor of Assam under the authority of the President of India under the Ministry of External Affairs, KFD, SFD, SiFD, LFD, & TFD became five districts of the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 1967 : Passing of NEFA Panchayat Raj Regulation Act to punctuate administrative canvas of the political map of the state to form Agency Council at the apex, Zila Parishads at district level, Anchal Samitis at block level and Gram Panchayat at village level (according to the status of traditional village councils).
- 1972 : Upgradation of NEFA to political identity of Union Territory and renaming of it as Arunachal Pradesh in pursuance of North-East Frontier Areas (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
- 1975 : Pradesh Council (Agency Council earlier) converted into legislative Assembly.

- 1978 : First election to 30 members assembly.
- 1987 : Replacement of the union territory by full-fledged statehood to Arunachal Pradesh.
- Till Today : The political map of Arunachal Pradesh has continued to be drawn and redrawn to paint the boundaries of administrative units at hierarchic scales. The following listing of these units provide us inner familiarity:

Table 1.1 : The Political Familiarity of Arunachal Pradesh.

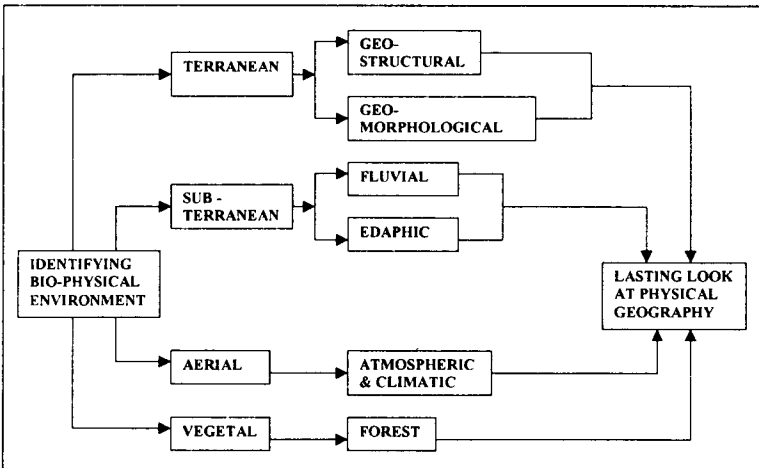
Sl. No.	Districts	Headquarters	Sub-divisional Quarters
1.	Tawang	Tawang	Lumla
2.	West Kameng	Bomdila	Thrizino, Rupa.
3.	East Kameng	Seppa	Chayangtajo
4.	Papum Pare	Yupia	Sagalee
5.	Lower Subansiri	Ziro	Ziro
6.	Upper Subansiri	Daporizo	Nacho
7.	Kurung Kumey	Laaying - Yangte	Koloriang
8.	West Siang	Along	Rumgong, Basar, Likabali, Yomcha, Mechuka.
9.	East Siang	Pasighat	Ruksin, Boleng
10.	Upper Siang	Yingkiong	Mariyang, Tuting
11.	Dibang Valley	Anini	Hunli, Roing
12.	Lohit	Tezu	Namsai, Hayuliang
13.	Changlang	Changlang	Miao
14.	Tirap	Khonsa	langding
15.	Arunachal State	Itanagar	

The political map of the state is further dotted by 143 circles, 10 towns and 3649 villages. The organizational changes, leading to the mechanism of creating the present political identity, shape the administrative effectiveness to support techno-organisational issues of developmental tasks and measures which remain otherwise apparently influenced by the physical geographic map identity of the region.

5. Arunachal Pradesh: How Environmentally Shaped?

The distinct biophysical environment identifies Arunachal Pradesh the most distinctively. The physical map of the state provides it a lasting look as a territorial segment on the physical canvas of India. The dauntiness of the bio-physical environmental components of the physical geography of the region has kept it to remain less explored which has given the state a complete camouflaged bio-physical identity - an ordained identity of mountain - forest dominant environment and this is true too. The identifying biophysical environmental elements have combined to shape the lasting physical geography of Arunachal Pradesh.

The geo - structural elements of a territory make the build of the grains of the terrain and the geo-morphological attributes shape the form identity of the physical surface of the regional block. Fluvial conditions (drainage) add to the physiographic punctuation. Aerial environment provides colours to brushes to paint region's physical canvas to display cultural and vegetal grandeur.



The territory of Arunachal Pradesh has remained an almost *Terra incognita* part for long and has, failed to express its specific geo-structural features. The geo-structural build coincides with the Himalayan geology, showing a combination of formations both from younger and older ages. Arunachal Pradesh shows the:

- (i) Sub-Himalaya unit, represented by the southern most frontier zone to have recent and old alluviums,
- (ii) Lower Himalaya unit, represented by the section between the main boundary fault and the main central thrust to present sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of Mesozoic and Paleozoic ages,
- (iii) High Himalaya unit along the main central thrust consisting of crystalline thrust sheet in the basement and
- (iv) Higher Himalaya unit, formed by the crystalline thrust - basement covered by tethys sediments.

The geological formations tend to follow SW - NE structural trend. Himalayan orogenic association subjects almost entire state prone to occasional seismic activities. Region's anticlinal and synclinal structures in association with complex faults, thrusts and overthrusts have made contributions to crown the state with juvenile physiographic appearance.

The geomorphic identity of Arunachal Pradesh is exquisitely composed by intricate and inhospitable terrain of conspicuous relief differences ranging between a few hundred meters and above 7000 meters. The panoramic surface is formalized by the presence of sequential mountain ranges of the Himalayan legacy wherein low hills, high mountains, intermountain plateaus and basins occur in profusion. The foothill and piedmont topography, on the other, adorn the geomorphic canvas of Arunachal Pradesh. The Physiographic identification is clearly recognizable in S - N sequences of : (a) The Shiwalik and the foothills running parallel to southern margin with northward projections along major rivers. The northward limit is determined by 200 meter contour, (b) The lesser Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh, having 200 - 300 meters of elevation along river valleys, but witnessing sudden rise of the Shiwaliks from the plains, and (c) The great Himalayas, dominating the Arunachal's configuration of its geomorphic face. Ridges and mountain peaks are conspicuous in numbers and elevations. Gorichen, Kangto, Namcha, Barwa, Kulangiri, Chomo and Lhari mountain peaks exceed 7000 meters height each. Apatani plateaue and Taroan basin remind of the presence

of intermountain geomorphic features. Relief range between 2000 - 5000 meters is found in eastern Arunachal and southeast Patkai section.

Juvenile mountains of Arunachal Pradesh release steep slope gradient which rivers follow to silver line the physiographic face of the state. River systems of Arunachal Pradesh constitute the essential part of the larger Brahmaputra system - the unmistakable identity of Northeast's physical map. We can locate the section identities of Arunachal Pradesh in the name of : (1) The Siang river system, (2) The Dibang river system, (3) The Subansiri river system, (4) The Kameng river system, (5) The Naming river system, (6) The Lohit river system, and (7) The Tirap river system. The pattern of many rivers and streams weave the drainage map of Arunachal Pradesh, is sharp, dense and vibrant to feel and look at, the geomorphic plan of the region is articulated by interposition of major rivers and their tributaries between defined mountain ridges. The plan formulates dendritic drainage pattern with trunk in the south and progressive branching tributaries in the north. The perennial nature of the rivers of Arunachal Pradesh and their response to terranian gradient have always been engaged in modifying region's edaphic situation.

The edaphic environment of Arunachal Pradesh is moulded the most by the altitudinal character. The nature of soils, in spatial context, is largely determined by the quality of parental materials and the mechanico - chemoical processes involved in their formations. The instances of high rainfall and heavy surface run-off have caused thin layer of high acidic soil in general. The altitudinal classification of soils have been comprehended to identify : (I) Soils of Hills, deficient in organic substances, (II) Soils in the valleys and mid altitudinal sections relatively rich in organic matters, (III) Soils in foothills, represented best by diluvial loams and sandy loams conforming with sedimentary surfaces, and (IV) Jhum soils, used by the tribal ***Jhumming***.

Climate has held to exercise perhaps the most potent influence over the biophysical environment which, in turn, tells upon the socio-cultural and economic base of the region too.

Climate signifies an average composite aerial condition, which is the outcome of interplay of meteorological elements - temperature, humidity, rainfall and other associated atmospheric disturbances occurring in the troposphere. The intensity of the composing elements determine the comfort scales of climatic influence in being equable and extremes in temporal and spatial terms. The climatic conditions of Arunachal Pradesh find spatial manifestations to identify:

- The hot humid sub tropical zone, covering the southern plains foothills with equable climatic conditions.
- The cooler or micro-thermal zone, coinciding with the areas of interior hills and mountains with character of marked degree of variations in climatic conditions.
- The Himadri or Alpine type zone, spreading over mid-altitudinal to high altitudinal locations with marked extremities of temperature fall, snow fall etc. at greater elevations.

Rainfall's nature qualifies Arunachal Pradesh in best of its way marked by high intensity and amount and extended period of May - August. Rainfall happens basically to be the outcome of composite influence of temperature, humidity, and wind also. The winter season remains almost dry. The past record of annual average rainfall presents an aerial environment to reveal a good deal of consistency. The common identity of Arunachal Pradesh in terms of climate is altogether different from Indian situation. The state relishes the fruits of four fold seasonal variations:

- The pre-monsoon season (March-May) - above 10% of the total year's rainfall is received.
- The southwest monsoon season (June-September) - about 70% of the years total rainfall is received.
- The post monsoon season (October-November) - climatic transitionality is observed.
- The winter season (December-February) - acute cold conditions prevail.

Climate has expressed its remarkable identity in shaping the

biophysical environment of Arunachal Pradesh. The drainage systems, the forest cover, the soil thinning and even topographic appearances all at least testimony of climatic connections. Not only this, the socio-cultural and economic geography of the state is intimately related to climate.

Forest forms one unmistakable biophysical environmental identity of Arunachal Pradesh, as its precipitous mountains and gorgeous rivers do the same. The state's latitudinal location, altitudinal variations and climatic favour have combined to designate Arunachal as Forest State in real comprehension. Forests claim some two-thirds of land to cover with variety of species and types. Though having subtropical latitudinal location, Arunachal Pradesh has developed apparent varieties of tropical wet evergreen and temperate evergreen forests responding to climatic splendor and altitudinal gradation. The forest identity of the state is, accordingly, established by bio-tracts of:

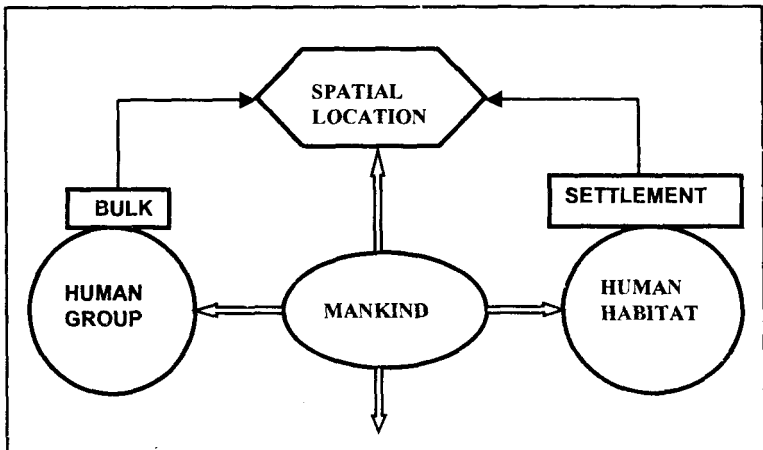
- Subtropical wet evergreen forests, extending in lower reaches to include districts of Tirap, Lohit (southern part), Dibang valley (southern tip), and East Siang (southeastern portion) to acquire intense and luxuriant cover.
- The temperate evergreen forests, occupying areas of mid range altitudes (generally ranging between 1800-3500 meters).
- The sub-Alpine and alpine type forests, covering the parts having elevation above 3500 meters.

Almost all types of forests are represented by districts falling in forest tracts, because climatic and topographic attributes follow south to north sequences of spread. Naturally forest areas have shaped the resources identity of the state as well. Forests have preserved the richness of flora and fauna - the diversity within and between the species of which has presented a panorama of biological amalgam with over 5000 flowering plants, about 85 terrestrial mammals, over 500 birds and a large number of butterflies, insects and reptiles. The

biophysical environmental identity of Arunachal Pradesh is, therefore, revealed through inescapable river studded, steep gradient mountain terrain, lush green forest cover and climatic isotropism.

6. Arunachal Pradesh—How Organized Socially and Culturally?

The quantitative and qualitative achievements in matters of attributes of population, activities generated by human groups and related locational artifact pain the socio-cultural identity of a region. Socio-cultural identity of Arunachal Pradesh signifies prolonged organizational manifestation in spatial perspective, i.e. spatial system in cultural context. The socio cultural identity of the region may be viewed as symbiotic expression of interlinked ties among components of human groups and locational attributes of artifacts that emerge over spatial canvass. Mankind is central to socio-cultural ramification:



Human groups of Arunachal Pradesh constitute a distinct population identity to define a multi-dimensional social configuration; the Arunachalese social configuration is a population mosaic of quantitative and qualitative attributes of human groupings. A spatial population profile gives a common comprehension of the social identity of Arunachal.

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Density</i>	<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>Urban Population %age</i>	<i>Literatures %age</i>	<i>Growth Census 1991-2001</i>
Tawang	34705	16	963	12.84	41.14	22.69
W. Kameng	74595	10	749	8.96	61.67	32.21
E. Kameng	57065	14	985	26.22	40.89	13.24
Papum Pare	121750	35	899	50.83	70.89	67.21
Lower Subansiri	97614	10	985	12.59	45.01	17.37
Upper Subansiri	54995	08	973	28.13	50.89	09.80
W. Siang	103575	13	913	19.95	60.31	15.17
E. Siang	87430	22	937	25.13	61.22	21.66
Upper Siang	33146	05	858	—	49.80	19.32
Lower Siang	57543	04	840	17.56	59.45	33.61
Dibang Valley	143478	13	857	18.54	56.05	33.78
Changlang	124994	27	905	09.85	51.98	30.84
Tirap	100227	42	911	15.25	42.01	17.21
Arunachal	1091117	13	901	20.41	54.74	26.21

It is revealed that (i) the region accounts for a very low size index in national context (just about 1.00), (ii) it counts a very low density of just 13 persons /Sq. Km, (iii) rural population overwhelmingly exceed the urban counterpart, the tempo of increasing urban and diminishing rural is however, accelerating (number of towns and share of urban population 1981 and 1991 were respectively 06 and 6.56 % and 10 and 12.80%, (iv) level of literacy has appreciably reached 54.74 % mark.

One very important trait of social configuration Arunachal Pradesh is enshrined in high to very high share of Scheduled Tribes population to total population at regional and sub regional scales. It equaled about two third share (1991) in case of state. Sub regional units are grouped under different share ranges to bring out the real situation:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Range of Share of S.T.</i>	<i>District Group</i>
1.	Below 50 P.C.	Papum Pare (49.53), Dibang Valley (45.44), Lohit (37.31) Changlang (34.84)
2.	50.01 - 80 P.C.	Upper Siang (79.55), Tawang (78.62), West Siang (78.47), East Siang (64.33), west Kameng (53.00)
3.	80.01 & Above P.C.	Lower Subansiri (89.63), Upper Subansiri (85.92), East Kameng (85.56), Tirap (80.43)
4.	Arunachal	63.66

The share of scheduled castes population accounts for very low percentage of about 01 or less. The establishment of educational centers - both general and technical has begun to contribute to raise the level of literacy and the skills of the population in the region.

The cultural identity of Arunachal Pradesh, as elsewhere, finds manifestation in people's habitat, which broadly consists of settlement - villages (rural) and towns (urban) and transport network. In spatial term the emergence of villages and towns and that of transport network are the outcome of space - intensifying and space-adjusting technologies which support spatial development. The number of villages and towns and their distribution pattern and associated transport connectivity and accessibility provide locational favourability to evolution of cultural landscape. There are more than 3649 villages distributed among districts of the region, the concentration being greater in lower Subansiri, Upper Subansiri, West Siang and Lohit Districts. The emergence of towns has initiated the process transformation in socio-cultural configuration of Arunachal Pradesh. The listing of towns of the state substantiates some of the urban traits.

Table 1.4 : Towns - Status, Sex Ratio and Literacy Level, 2001

Sl. No.	Towns	Population ana Census	Sex Ratio F/'00 Males	P.C. Literatures
1.	ITANAGAR	35045 (iii)	877	73.26
2.	NAHARLAGUN	26912 (iii)	875	73.48
3	PASIGHAT	21973 (iii)	886	67.24
4.	ALONG	16834 (iv)	772	73.29
5.	DAPORIZO	15773 (iv)	915	63.94
6.	TEZU	15014 (iv)	818	73.62
7.	SEPPA	14965 (iv)	879	53.48
8.	ZIRO	12289 (iv)	925	71.76
9.	NAMSAI	11582 (iv)	823	64.52
10.	ROING	10106 (iv)	762	78.39
11.	KHONSA	9229 (v)	772	78.88
12.	BOMDILA	6685 (v)	850	72.47
13.	CHANGLANG	6394 (v)	778	76.25
14.	DEOMALI	6060 (v)	870	66.26
15.	JAIRAMPUR	5918 (v)	767	76.69
16.	TAWANG	4456 (vi)	844	67.37
17.	BASAR	3834 (vi)	792	77.63

The socio-cultural identity of Arunachal Pradesh has imprints of its varied tribes practicing their distinct religious and other socio-cultural activities. Some of the major tribes include: - Monpa, Sherdukpen, Miji, Aka, Nyishi, Puroik, Apatani, Hill Miri, Tagin, Adis, Membra, Khambaldu, Mishmi, Digaru, Miju Mishmi, Khamti, Singpho, Tangsa, wancho, Nocte. Sollungs, Taroon etc. the tribal dominant Arunachal Pradesh has, in a given distinct biophysical environment, created distinct habitat economy and society to ventilate its multi dimensional socio cultural identity.

7. Arunachal Pradesh: What Economic Legacy and Possibility it has?

Arunachal Pradesh has shown a distinct economic artifact, which is not much identical to economic face of majority of regions in India. The not very common locational, biophysical and socio-cultural identities of the state of Arunachal Pradesh have fashioned an economic face that reflects unique attributes. The current wills, skills and technologies have applied fresh brushes to paint the region's economic canvass a new. The economic identity of Arunachal Pradesh may be summarily defined to have:

- Largely agrarian economy providing direct employment to above 65% of total main workers of the state.
- Agriculturally Jhum dominant economy, practicing shifting cultivation.
- Only 5% of the states geographical area under agricultural operations, of which too, about 65% falls under Jhuming.
- Initiated the culture of permanent agriculture, marking the beginning of innovative stage of region's economy.
- Contribution of agriculture's sister trades, viz. horticulture, pisci-culture, livestock rearing and others to show future promise.
- A prominently strong forest economy, with wide coverage and operation.

- Resource converting activities, making inroads to shape a multi-sectoral strong economic identity.

The developmental practices and outcome have, in contemporary context, set the state to evolve a new economic geography and to locate its identity on the economic map on India in a conspicuous way.

8. Arunachal Pradesh : The Composite Identity

The regional identity refers to a significant symbiosis of identification marks. The composite identity of Arunachal Pradesh may be comprehended in the name of Arunachal Pradesh itself. As the identity of man is mirrored through man himself in terms of his identification marks, viz. Face, and other limbs, so is applicable to any territorial block. The identity of Arunachal Pradesh is succinctly composed of its identification marks viz. locational position, biophysical environment, and details of historico-political map, socio-cultural amalgam and economic attainment.

The regional composite identity of Arunachal Pradesh may be comprehended to designate the state as : (a) a land of "Unique distinctions," (b) a land of enchanting beauty, (c) a land of "Ecological determinism". The distinctions of identity have emerged out of symbiotic expressions of region far-flung peripheral geographical and regional location over the map of India, its biophysical environment dictates, and socio-cultural and economic responses to regional ecological determinism.

The composite identity of Arunachal Pradesh may be understood in terms of land identity. The land identity necessitates region's developmental identity. Development is the result of "land doctoring" and developmental manifestations are doctored by the "science of land health." Let us examine practices and outcome that the land of Arunachal Pradesh has been following and accruing.