

# Low life expectancy

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LIFE expectancy at birth is 42.50 years in Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh, only 3.41 years more than Sierra Leone's 38.9 years, the lowest in the world. This was revealed in the first UNDP and Planning Commission sponsored human development report prepared by the faculty of the Rajiv Gandhi University at Itanagar. The report which was released by chief minister Gegong Apang also revealed that there was a high degree of inter-district variation in life expectancy among the 15 of the total 16 districts of the state surveyed. It said access to medical facilities enjoyed by the rural population was the prime determinant of life expectancy. The other important variable was the literacy rate. Papumpare and East Siang were relatively well connected and enjoyed better access to medical care. These districts also have high literacy levels. Apang rued that while Arunachal has the potential to become a rich state like those in the Gulf, it continued to suffer because of the policies of the Central government.