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Arunachal Pradesh



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MESSAGE

My dear brothers and sisters of Arunachal Pradesh,

On this joyous occasion of our 64th Republic Day, I extend warm greetings and good wishes to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh. I also greet the members of the armed forces, the state police and paramilitary forces who guard our land borders, air space and coastal frontiers and have made umpteen sacrifices in the discharge of their duty towards the motherland.

On this red-letter day, let us pay glowing tributes to our great founding fathers, freedom fighters and patriotic leaders, who had secured freedom for our nation through their untiring efforts. They gave us the Constitution which guarantees, amongst others, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and has stood the test of time in helping us become a strong, stable and vibrant democracy. Let us pay our profound respects to the drafting committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Today, I propose to share my vision of the State with you. I wish to see a vibrant, prosperous and peaceful Arunachal Pradesh. I dream of a bright future for all Arunachalis, where they not only enjoy the highest per capita income, but also, the highest per capita happiness. May our Land of the Rising Sun continue to stand strong and steadfast as the eastern sentinel of our great nation.

On this august occasion, I commend the State Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki and his team for taking up a number of initiatives on various fronts and laying strong foundation on which we can build a modern, strong, prosperous and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. The State Government has formulated many important policies responding to the need and aspirations of the people particularly, in the field of skill development and employment generation. I visualize that tourism and horticulture and other developments facilitated by improved and new roads, airfields and railway will be the drivers of prosperity to make Arunachal touch the sky.

Our State capital is being connected by a 4-lane highway and we expect that half of this stretch will be black-topped before the end of this year. Work has been awarded for almost 85% of the length of the world-standard Trans-Arunachal highway which runs right through the heart of the State from Tawang to Kanubari. Work on the Itanagar water supply project is almost complete and it's dry-run by charging of tanks already completed. In another month or so, the water woes of the capital complex should become history. More than 1700 villages along the International border have been provided home lighting systems or power connections under the Border Village Illumination Program. The Vijayanagar ALG has been re-activated and atleast four others are targetted for re-activation before the end of this year. We will move into the new Civil Secretariat by June this year.

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The 110 MW Pare hydro-electric project is likely to be commissioned by September next year. More than 50% of the target road length under the program to connect 513 border villages has been achieved. This progress may not be visible to us sitting here within the State but if one compares satellite pictures of the State – one that of 2008 and one of 2013, the progress will be telling. Admittedly, there has been some delay in the Naharlagun Railway Line project but I am informed that this is due to problems in gauge conversion on the connecting link in Assam.

I am pleased to mention today that our State has maintained a better growth rate in agriculture, industries, and services sectors than the national growth rate during the 12th Five Year Plan. This is the first time that this has happened during any of the five year plans. I am also pleased to mention that last year Arunachal Pradesh registered a substantial rise in inflow of tourists. Renowned travel magazine 'Lonely Planet' appropriately ranked Arunachal Pradesh as 4th best tourist region in the world for the year 2012 and recently, Arunachal Pradesh has added another feather in its cap for being voted the 'Favourite Upcoming Destination' by the travel magazine Outlook Traveller.

I congratulate all of you, the District administration and police of Capital complex, the business communities and all Govt. officers and officials for finally sounding the death-knell of the *bandh culture* in the State by paying no heed to the malafide calls of vested groups. Your efforts have yielded results – there has been no bandh call in the State in the last two months now and even those prior to the last call was met with little or no response. This was much unlike a call every week that was being given a few months back. This is the true indomitable Arunachali spirit. Keep it up.

Today, I call upon all of you to renew our pledge and resolve of making our State, 'Clean, green and plastic free'. I thank all the members of TEAM ARUNACHAL for the enthusiastic response I received to my call given two years ago and for the contribution each one of you made towards promoting the 'green' cause. Today, as our national tri-colour unfurls, let us commit that we will continue to work for a great future for this great nation.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind

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