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## MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of our beloved State, Arunachal Pradesh, I extend my sincere greetings and felicitations to all my brothers and sisters of Arunachal Pradesh. I also convey my heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for your team spirit, hard work, commitment and your contribution towards the maintenance of peace and progress of our State in the last 24 years. I am confident that you will continue to maintain this spirit and tempo for socio-economic progress of all Arunachalees.

Twentieth of February is a Red-Letter day in the history of Arunachal Pradesh, when twenty-four years ago, the then Prime Minister and our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi conferred full Statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. This paved the way for the indigenous people of the State to pursue the progressive, need-based, area-specific and welfare-oriented policies as perceived by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India. The people of the Arunachal Pradesh are indeed indebted to the benevolence of great leaders like Pandit ji, Indira Gandhi ji and Rajiv Gandhi ji who had not only helped the State in attaining its due constitutional status but also guided the destiny of this strategic border State by laying strong foundations of development in the formative years of the State. And today Arunachal Pradesh is marching ahead towards a bright future.

On this Silver Jubilee Celebration of our Statehood day, I would like to state that with every new milestone on the path of progress and development in the last twenty-four years we have written a new chapter of transformation of Arunachal Pradesh. Along with the rest of the country, Arunachal Pradesh has also made significant achievements in several fields.

However, we cannot afford to be complacent. We must continue to make determined efforts to remove poverty & backwardness of our people and to come at par with the advanced States of India. While doing so, we must remember that peace and tranquility are the two basic and prime pre-requisites for accelerated economic development. It is therefore necessary that proper law & order is maintained in the State so that there is a proper environment for investments which in turn can attract private as well as institutional investments for generating more employment opportunities under various sectors. I trust that each one of you will help in maintaining the traditional atmosphere of peace and harmony prevailing in the State.