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My dear brothers and sisters of Arunachal Pradesh,

On this auspicious occasion of our 61st Republic Day, I extend warm greetings to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh. I pay gratitude to the thousands of workers, farmers, teachers, doctors, engineers and others, who, through their untiring efforts are today laying the foundations of a strong and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. I also greet the members of the Armed Forces, para-military forces, our border-guards and our naval and air warriors who remain ever-ready to defend the honour and pride of our motherland.

This is an occasion to rejoice as well as reflect. Let us pay glowing tributes to our great founding fathers and freedom fighters who made numerous sacrifices for the cause of future generations. We owe our freedom and prosperity to them, and today is a humbling occasion when their contributions should be remembered by all of us.

The year 2009 has been a year of many accomplishments and we have entered a challenging phase in the development history of the State. During this year, the successful conduct of both the Assembly and Parliament elections in the State with record turn-outs demonstrated to the rest of the world, the faith of the people of Arunachal Pradesh in the strong democratic traditions of the country. The State received a strong development thrust with the increase in pace of implementation of several PM package projects. Work on Legislative Assembly Building, Secretariat Building, Itanagar railway line project have already started and are progressing satisfactorily. Several other mega-projects in the field of road construction, hydro-power development and Greenfield airport are in the pipeline and work on them will commence this year. Dear friends, you will always be remembered by the future generations as belonging to an era when Arunachal Pradesh firmly launched itself on the fast-track path of socio-economic growth and development.

On this occasion, I want to make a special appeal to all the residents of the State and to the school children in particular to extend their contribution towards making of a 'Clean, Green and Plastic-free Arunachal'. I also exhort each and every citizen to do his bit for realizing the enormous tourism potential of the State as only individual efforts can lead to collective results. Let all of us decide, particularly the children to plant one tree each.