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MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the Department of Environment & Forests, Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating the World Environment Day on 5th June this year with the theme, 'Forests: Nature At Your Service.'

Our Indian sub-continent is a microcosm of our Planet in terms of biological diversity and the range of flora and fauna we have here. Conservation of this biological wealth is, therefore, a national priority. Our quest for development has to strive a balance with conservation of the environment and its biodiversity. We need to live in harmony with nature.

This year's theme for the World Environment Day is very appropriate to Arunachal Pradesh which has more than 80% of geographical area under forest and tree cover. Rich cultural diversity of the State as an important element of social organization has over millennia developed its own systems of sustainable practices of management and use of natural resources. It is, therefore, appropriate to recognize the contribution of such indigenous traditional knowledge in enriching the scientific understanding of the practices for conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Equally important is the impact of global phenomenon like the climate change not just on the livelihoods but the human civilization itself. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that for development of sustain, it must follow a path of environmental sustainable and inter-generational equity and leave the Planet a richer place for future generation than the one we inherited.

On this World Environment Day, therefore, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of environment protection and biodiversity conservation for the common good of not just the people of Arunachal Pradesh but the entire human race.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.

General J J Singh
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