



**INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GEN NIRBHAY SHARMA
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION OF
JOB MELA-CUM-SKILL DEVELOPMENT
INTERVIEW RALLY
AT
INDIRA GANDHI PARK,
ITANAGAR
ON
FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST, 2013**

I am indeed very happy to inaugurate the 'Job-Mela-cum-Skill Development Interview Rally' in the State today. I am told it is the first of its kind in the whole of North East Region. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Director General, National Skill Development Agency Shri J.P. Rai and the Hon'ble Minister, Industries have already spoken about the programme and it's relevance. Principal Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Sharda Prasad has also spelt out the essentials of the scheme in a very lucid manner.

Therefore, I will not go into the nitty-gritty of the scheme, but concentrate on some vitals. **As the "Gaon Burah" of the State, let me exercise the privilege of an elder and offer advice on the implications of this endeavor on the future of our State i.e. Arunachal Pradesh-'The Land of Rising Sun.'**

Apart from the fact that the Sun rises here an hour ahead of rest of the country, giving us a daily lead, **our employability dividend**, that is the population in the age group 15 to 59 years bracket is **55% of our population**. In the districts of West Kameng, Tawang and Papum Pare, it goes up to 60% and this percentage is against the National average of 34%. **We as a State, are peaking in terms of our employability dividend way ahead of rest of the country.** Next 15 to 20 years will therefore be decisive for the State, because we will gradually start tapering down thereafter and rest of the country will then be on an upward curve. **We must appreciate this vital fact and seize the opportunity of our life time.** Those sitting here have a great responsibility in this regard for the present generation and the generation next.

The **second aspect is with regard to the numbers.** In our State, out of a total population dividend of around 5-6 lakhs, almost 1 lakh are employed in the Government Job in some form or the other and another 2-3 lakhs are employed in the agriculture sector and its allied activities. Add to this, the employment in formal and unorganized sectors, underemployment and disguised employment, we are **looking at the figure of at least 1 lakh persons requiring employment in the next five years.** These numbers, though challenging but are manageable and the time is on our side.

Thirdly, the requirement of employment is both within the State and outside. While our vital developmental projects in terms of hydro-power, infrastructure and agriculture, tourism and essential services require skilled and un-skilled manpower both, there are also many skills which have trans-national application to bring the State into the mainstream of our country.

So, we need to **look at the entire issue in a comprehensive manner.** This endeavour of Job-cum-Skill Development Interview Rally in various skills/trades gives us a window into the job market and an opportunity to fill in the slots. If implemented successfully, we are looking at the possibility of an ambitious, but attainable target of providing employment to 1 lakh youth in the next five years, both within the State and outside the State.

How will it happen? The first challenge before you, the young aspirants is to change the mindset. To look beyond the Government jobs, hone your skills and realize your talent to take the employment in non-Government sectors and also seek self-employment.

The next thing is to start thinking of moving out of your homes, villages and towns and go out within the country and abroad to be part of the global village. Do not look for short cuts and easy money. No country or community has progressed by remaining within. You have to prepare to acquire wings and fly away. The youth of Arunachal Pradesh has all that it takes to reach on the top. Believe in yourself and think of the bright future lying ahead of you. Do not miss this opportunity. **In fact, if we can put our act together, rather than being job seekers, we will be the job providers for rest of the country.**

Now, coming to **specific of the job mela,** I expect our energetic and dynamic youth to take maximum advantage of this programme. This State is home for 26 different tribes and more than 110 sub-tribes, it is a **treasure house of unique traditional skills and craftsmanship.** We have to explore this.

I have talked about a beyond the Government jobs perspective and look at **entrepreneurship as a tool of self-empowerment,** because as an entrepreneur you can hold your own destiny. Entrepreneurs focus on an opportunity, where others see nothing. As American Politician Terry McAuliffe said, I quote, 'I've always been an entrepreneur, but it's never been about the money. I like a challenge, the harder the better.' Unquote. I hope that you all will maintain this spirit in you.

The Vocational Training Providers, who have taken the trouble to come here deserve our compliments. I call upon them to mould the skills of our youth and train them to meet the job market demands. Their encouragement and sustained effort will go a long way in setting a trend. **It is not a one time exercise and we are looking at your long term relationship with us.** I am certain that you will meet the aspirations of the youth and the State in full.

Given the enthusiasm and interest displayed by the training providers and other enablers, **I am confident that you will deliver on target and in time.**

The State Government, National Skill Development Agency and other organizers also have big role to play. **As mentors, I expect them to not only facilitate the creation of this platform but monitor the progress of the project and apply corrections if required.** The success rate must be reviewed periodically and the feedback taken from all stake holders including the youth, the society and officials down to the District level. Only then, we will be able to maintain the momentum of march towards our goal.

As I conclude, **I congratulate the State Government, National Skill Development Agency and all the stakeholders for this very impressive and dynamic programme.**

It is very heartening to see the response of the Vocational Training Providers, public and private organizations and the youth who are participating in this maiden programme. I am reminded of the Independence Day speech of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, who informed that a new scheme would be launched by the National Skill Development Authority to benefit around 10 lakhs men and women in the next one year. **Let us be part of this dream and realize it to the extent possible.**

I am **aware of the effort which has gone into organizing this event.** Do you know that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has spent lot of time at this park to personally dot the 'is' and cross the 'ts'. My appreciation to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki, the entire team of Cabinet Ministers and senior officials of the State Government for picking up the gauntlet and see that the rally not only succeeds, but becomes a path finder for our development and prosperity.

I wish the organizers and the people of my beloved State Arunachal Pradesh all the very best. I am confident that the event will be a great success.

Thank you very much,

Jai Hind.