



SPEECH
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION OF
BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES
RAJYA PURASKAR AWARD FUNCTION
AT
RAJ BHAVAN DARBAR HALL,
ITANAGAR
ON
10 JAN 2014

At the very outset, I wish you all a very Happy New Year. May the year ahead bring happiness and contentment in your life.

I congratulate all the recipients of Rajya Puraskar. This is an important milestone of your life, reflecting your hard work, dedication, and discipline. This is recognition of your excellent work in the field of social service and community works. I hope that the award which has been conferred on you will further encourage each one of you and also your colleagues to strive towards excellence in future.

I congratulate State Chief Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides and his team of energetic and committed officers for organizing this grand event. I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for promoting youth development activities and for the commendable work in fostering the spirit of national integration.

The youth and the students of today are the architects of the India of tomorrow. In the age of moral turmoil and depletion of values, our social fabric has been weakened. Channelizing the energy and enhancing the capabilities of our youth for the task of nation building is necessary. The youth must appreciate the richness and diversity of our culture and imbibe our age-old values of truth, tolerance and respect for all, in particular for their parents, teachers and elders and the Mother Nature. Youth must inculcate in themselves love and duty for Motherland, reverence for traditions and perspective for change. The Scout & Guides movement is a beacon of hope.

The purpose of the Scouts and Guides Movement is to facilitate our young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals to become a responsible citizen. It is a very important movement which aims to channelize the latent potential, capacity and genius of our youth to realise their own strengths and capabilities.

Today, more than 46% of our total population comprise of people between the age group of 15 to 44 years; this amazing human resource can play a critical role in Nation Building and making India a Global Power. Swami Vivekananda exemplifies this energy and capacity of youth when he says 'Give me a few men and women who are pure and selfless and I shall shake the world'.

The scouting and guiding is not merely a programme for the youth but also a way to sensitize the society about various issues. Through its activities like, community development, literacy programmes, health awareness campaigns, and calamity relief, the Bharat Scouts and Guides have been fostering in our society a new culture of work, a refreshingly different attitude. It is an education system based on respect and relevance for children, a system which will help each one blossom according to one's best potential, for a vibrant democracy, which will develop children to be responsible and progressive citizens of the country.

I am very pleased to note that scouting movement started in Arunachal Pradesh way back in 1948 and today, it is flourishing with a total enrolment of about approximately 20,000 (Twenty-Thousand) cadets and adult learners. I am told that there are 777 (Seven hundred Seventy-Seven) units covering nearly 350 (Three Hundred and Fifty) schools and colleges in addition to 50 (Fifty) more private educational institutions. I am very happy to learn that many of our scouts and guides are recipients of bravery awards and have also contributed towards the cause of the Nation at the time of need such as natural calamities etc. I am also happy to note that our Scouts and Guides have been taking part in national immunization programmes.

I am impressed by the exhibition put up by the scouts and guides. The cultural presentation was excellent. I trust that these cultural activities will help the younger generation in building a strong bond with their age-old traditions and cultural heritage. The First Aid demonstration was very informative and interesting.

I would like to request the Commissioner Education to ensure that Scouts and Guides are trained in continuous manner in various other fields like Disaster Management, traffic rules, awareness against Opium de-addiction and these activities are included in the extra curriculum activities of school syllabus.

I would like to see that Scouts and Guides movement is also equally proactive in the border district of the State. The next Rajya Puraskar ceremony venue should be in one of the border district of Arunachal Pradesh. More camps should be planned in these districts with active participation of general public, and I promise I will attend some of these camps personally.

I would also earnestly request the Scout masters and Guide instructors to develop critical, ethical thinking and analytical skills in our children. Our Scouts and Guides should be trained in Spirit of Adventure, Spirit of Inquiry, Spirit of Self Introspection and Growth and Spirit of Self Sufficiency to enable them to face any challenges in life. What you do for your wards is not very important but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings is of paramount importance.

My dear children future is yours. Prepare yourself to meet any challenge in the future. As your motto, 'Always Be Prepared'. As a scout, you must be prepared yourself and learn to anticipate the things and ride on the waves.

With these words, I once again congratulate Commissioner Education, Director of School Education, the Ex officio State Chief Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides and his team for organizing this programme. I do hope that children of Arunachal Pradesh and participants in particular will immensely benefit from Bharat Scouts and Guides activities in the State.

As Robert Badel Powell said, 'A scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances'

So Keep Smiling.

Jai Hind.