



**SPEECH  
OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY**

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**ON THE OCCASION OF  
SEMINAR ON  
“SYNERGY AMONG VARIOUS AGENCIES-  
CRITICAL FOR DEVELOPMENT &  
EFFECTIVE BORDER MANAGEMENT  
IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH”  
ORGANISED BY ITBP**

**AT  
BANQUET HALL, ITANAGAR**

**ON  
06 FEBRUARY, 2014**

I am delighted to inaugurate this seminar on such an important subject concerning all government agencies, security forces, and common people of Arunachal Pradesh. **This seminar provides us an excellent opportunity to understand, analyze, and discuss, the importance of development in the frontier areas and effective border management in the Arunachal Pradesh and at the same time come out with tangible and pragmatic suggestions to address the challenges being faced by the administration and all stakeholders.** I am sanguine that this seminar will certainly help in developing better mechanism in ensuring development.

I felicitate Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force for organizing this important seminar. This initiative of ITBP shows the seriousness of the Force towards its duties and responsibilities. I congratulate Shri Subhas Goswami and his team for it.

**Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, which was raised in 1962 has completed 51 glorious years in the service of the Nation.** The Units of the force were inducted in the North East region in 2004 and today, eight battalions have been deployed in Arunachal Pradesh along the Sino Indian international border. I am told that by 2015, three Sector Headquarters and ten battalions will be manning the international border in my State.

ITBP, as you all know is rated as one of the toughest of all Para Military Police Forces. It is the only police force in the country, which possesses expertise in keeping watch over the most formidable mountains of the Himalayas. It operates in the most demanding conditions and remains deployed in sub zero climatic zones in rugged and mountainous terrain of the Sino-Indian Border.

I am pleased to note that senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Border Roads Organisation, Central Public Works Department, and State Government are taking part in today's seminar. I can see from the agenda that there will be presentations by them.

**The topic of today's seminar, ie "Synergy among various agencies -critical for development & effective border management" is highly relevant and timely. The key words being synergy, development and border management. Essentially it means cooperation/combined action of all stake holders for security and development of the border area. While security in this context implies ensuring sanctity of the border and development means providing the basic necessities to the residents and harnessing the economic potential of the area. The stake holders in this are the State of India and its people. We, the participants in this seminar are the instruments of the State to make it happen.**

The sanctity of border is maintained by 'Policing' it in peace time and 'defending' it during the hostilities/ war. With the time line between peace and war having blurred, the switch from Policing to defending is in tandem and interdependent. The main players in this are the Army, IAF and the ITBP. The challenge before them and the other supporting elements is to achieve it in continuum.

**Policing essentially relates to guarding the border against intrusions of all kinds across the LAC and instilling a sense of security amongst the populace. Defending goes well beyond this and graduates to measures against armed aggression.** The nuances of both these actions are well known to this gathering. I however, wish to highlight a common thread which runs through both, ie on a common canvas/ 'Karma Bhumi,' demanding interdependence and interoperability at all levels. In a way, it is like a relay race requiring the change of baton without any loss of momentum. What it takes to do is what we will discuss today. In the process of our deliberations, **we should not lose sight of the vital players other than Army and ITBP, both visible and invisible.** The discussion will only be meaningful, if it is all encompassing. The aspects of organisational structure including its hierarchy, intelligence, communication, connectivity, logistics, local support and so on are as important as 'man behind the gun,' if not more.

**As you are well aware, Arunachal Pradesh is characterized by mountainous rugged and undulating terrain and innumerable rivers and streams which originate in the higher Himalayas ranges.** The entire terrain along the International Border is treacherous and is marked with high hills, deep gorges, and dense forests. Large portions of tract close to the border are un-inhabited. It is only the presence of isolated habitations and small villages of Arunachalees, which establishes our territorial dominance/ presence in these areas at the ground-level. The security agencies have to win the confidence of these people as they know the terrain and their people, they can be of great help in identifying intruders and other anti-national elements, as also be a force multiplier during hostilities/ war.

**Many of the border habitations require multiple days of foot-march to reach. It has therefore been the consistent policy of the State and Central Government to provide basic administrative and civic services to the residents of these habitations so that they do not migrate to better developed areas, leaving these strategic border areas un-populated.** It can only be done, when we ensure that development reaches to these areas. For that the Central Government, State Government, District Administration and Security agencies must work as a team and create basic infrastructure for health care, education and other socio economic necessities.

**During my recent visits to Kibithu, Walong, Taksing, Daporijo, Aalo, Mechuka, Tuting and Yingkiong, I felt that the basic facilities in these villages need to be improved further.** Each one of you, especially, the members of civil administration and also those men and officers from armed forces stationed in these areas should shoulder responsibilities to provide them the basic necessities. The issues of land acquisition, road construction, and environment friendly development are also related to this and require our utmost attention.

In all 13, out of 17 districts of my State have international borders. With the population of around 2.7 lakhs, i.e. around 20% of the total population resides in approximately 1600 villages of 41 Border Blocks. Although, various programmes under the aegis of Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and the other developmental packages have addressed this region, **the thrust of development however peters out as it ascends towards the LAC.**

A detailed examination of this issue suggests that **the developmental plan of the border belt has to be reviewed in a big way. In the border belt, constraints of terrain, weather and distance reduce the reach of civil administration, therefore, the border villages have to be self-sustaining and self-reliant.** This factor apart, army and para-military forces deployed on the LAC can play a significant role in the implementation of a developmental model, wherein infrastructure, communication, health and other logistic facilities are shared in the extent possible.

**The key to all this is synergy, which is the interaction of multiple elements in a system to produce an effect different from or greater than the sum of their individual effects.**

Our civil and military leadership must define concrete and do-able objectives and measures of success. These can be used to assess results along the way, to guide allocation of resources, plan programming and budgeting for future capabilities and functions. One such example which comes to my mind is the **multiple categories of roads under different heads and funding. Instead don't you think there is there a case for an integrated road development programme for the entire State. Like wise, Sadhbhavna, BADP and other similar developmental and welfare projects can be put on a combined grid for obvious reasons.**

As a man from Army who had a long association with Northeast region, particularly Arunachal Pradesh, I know how our personnel work round the clock in extreme difficult circumstances. In severe weather and harsh terrain, our men guard every inch of our land with sheer devotion and dedication. **I salute those great sons of our country.**

Finally, **I would like to reiterate that best way to have effective border management in the State is to win the confidence of the local people and I am confident that all of you have already done it.**

This group of senior officers can become a team, when each one of you is confident of yourself and appreciates the contributions of other members of the team. I would like to add here a Swahili proverb, which says, I quote, 'A boat doesn't go forward, if each one is rowing their own way'. Unquote.

I am certain that the deliberations of today will be extremely useful and enable us to move forward to achieve our common goal, i.e. security and development of the border area. **During the conduct of seminar, the discussants must adhere to the principle of 'need to know', which is vital in matters of security.**

Thank you for inviting me to the seminar. I wish the organisers and participant all the best.

Jai Hind.