



सत्यमेव जयते

**SPEECH  
OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY**

**LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,  
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),**

**GOVERNOR,**

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**19<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION, INDIAN GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS &  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: RISKS MANAGEMENT &  
GOVERNANCE”**

**AT**

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY,  
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH  
ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014**

At the very outset, I extend my warm greetings to the esteemed members of India Geological Congress and participants of this convention and International Conference. Welcome to this Frontier State of the country, Arunachal Pradesh.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to inaugurate this International Conference on '**Climate Change & Natural Resources Development Strategies: Mountain Risks Management and Governance**' which is coupled with the 19<sup>th</sup> Convention of Indian Geological Congress. The topic of this conference itself is very important and relevant not only to my State but to the entire North Eastern region. I hope that within these three days, learned scientists, and participants will find the best scientific ways and means to address the challenges posed by the climate change and at the same time find ways of balanced harnessing the abundant natural resources.

I extend my gratitude to Indian Geological Congress and Rajiv Gandhi University for organizing this conference and convention here at Arunachal Pradesh. The endeavour reflects their far-sightedness and genuineness towards the theme.

Many institutions across the world are carrying out research on climate change and its impact on people across the world. It is one of the biggest issues of the day. The environmental impact includes change in rainfall patterns, increased frequency and severity of floods, droughts, storms and heat waves, changes in growing seasons and regions, change in water quality and quantity, rising of sea level and melting glaciers. **The research suggests that the effect and impact of climate change will affect all but its cost will be disproportionately high on the poor, as they lack adequate means to deal with it.**

**The task before us is both, understanding climate change impact on several key areas, and explore ways to mitigate or reduce it within these areas.** Special focus has to be on earthquakes, flood, droughts, wildfires, groundwater, coastal flooding and tsunamis.

**Today industrialization and lifestyle of the people have caused a huge surge in green house gas emission and the green environment, which absorbs the green house gas and checks its effects, is being reduced.** Extracting natural resources, such as coal and minerals also has a huge impact on the green coverage e.g.in the coal mines in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, almost a whole mountain face has been completely destroyed while extracting coal. **There is a need for developing scientific and eco friendly ways to ensure that we harness our natural resources but at the same time preserve the green cover.** As geologists and environmentalists, you have a crucial role in studying and analyzing the causes, mechanisms and impacts of such geo-hazards.

**Geologically, Arunachal Pradesh is a lesser-known region. Mountains in Arunachal Pradesh are young mountains and the region is prone to earthquake. Seismically, Arunachal falls under one of the most risky zone i.e. Zone-V.**

This region experiences very heavy rainfall. According to reports by certain environmental groups, climate change may cause rise in temperature, which in turn changes the pattern of rainfall and its intensity. **It is expected that there will be increase in intensity of rainfall, which will lead to heavy surface water run off. It can cause heavy soil erosion and landslides.** It may affect the surface drainage of the streams and rivers. It will be a challenging situation for all to handle. Harsh climate and topography may add to such mammoth obscurity. Beside this, many other issues may be there, which may have drastic effect in the hilly region like Arunachal Pradesh.

**Since the middle of the nineteenth century, there had been at least two major earthquakes in this region, which are among the most destructive earthquakes in human history.** The 1950 earthquake caused wide spread devastation throughout upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Several tributaries of Brahmaputra River, particularly Subansiri, Dihang, Dibang were blocked by land slips. Railway communication was disrupted because of damages of tracks and bridges. Your analytical skills, combined with information from the field, may help in determining the probability of specific sized events occurring, within a given area. This information can be used to generate hazard maps, which will help communities adapt means to reduce impact of the hazard. I wish that in-depth discussion and deliberation be conducted on such issues during these three days for find solutions and ways to mitigate. **I will be very happy if your ideas and findings are shared with State Government. It will help in putting policies in place to alleviate such situations, if they arise.**

Alongside, many developmental projects are coming up in the region and many more are in the pipeline. At times, torrential rainfall, landslides and floods create hurdles in the implementation of these projects. Many roads are constructed but are washed away or have to be repaired again and again. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Indian Geological Congress to also advise us on the design of roads, bridges, tunnels and dams with a geological perspective.

**Let me conclude by quoting the famous American activist Winona LaDuke, I quote 'Mother Earth needs us to keep our covenant. We will do this in courts, we will do this on our radio station, and we will commit to our descendants to work hard to protect this land and water for them. Whether you have feet, wings, fins, or roots, we are all in it together' Unquote.**

Finally, on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and on my own behalf, I felicitate the members of Indian Geological Congress for arranging this very important International Conference. In the end, my message to the scientific community and the participants of this Conference is that your intellectual capital has to be invested out in the field for the good of mankind in general and States like Arunachal Pradesh in particular. I am certain this will be your main theme during the deliberations.

I wish you all a wonderful stay and productive and fruitful discussions and wish the conference a grand success.

**Thank you all**

**Jai Hind.**