



SPEECH
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR
of
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION
OF
REPUBLIC DAY, 2015
AT
ITANAGAR

My dear fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh

On this sacred occasion of the 66th Republic Day of our nation, I extend my warm greetings, good wishes and felicitations to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh and to my brothers and sisters all over the country. I, in particular, greet each one of you who has gathered here at the Indira Gandhi Park to be a part of this joyous occasion.

On this Red Letter Day, I join all of you in paying homage to the valiant and brave heroes who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom of our nation so that their future generations could live as free citizens and independent to determine their own destiny. Warm felicitations also go to the members of our armed forces, para-military forces and the Police with whose efforts we are secure and reaping the fruits of peace and tranquillity. We in Arunachal Pradesh can never forget the war of 1962, when we stood-fast resolutely against a foreign aggression. Let us particularly salute those countrymen, who made the supreme sacrifice defending us during this war.

Today, let us pay tribute to our founding fathers, who had brought forth freedom to our Nation, and gave us the Constitution which guarantees justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to promote secular spirit reinforcing our socialist democratic values. They guided the Nation through its infancy and ensured that it would one day reap the fruits of their hard work and selfless service.

Today let us introspect and appreciate the inherent significance of India becoming a Republic; that we the Citizens of India have the power to govern ourselves. Over the last 65 years, our Nation has faced numerous challenges, both from within and without. Yet, with each such challenge, it has emerged as a stronger and a much more mature nation. This special occasion provides an opportunity to all of us to renew the pledge to work for the well-being of our people, for peace and harmony in our society and indeed, the world.

This day belongs to those numerous silent workers, farmers, doctors, engineers, teachers who are working relentlessly for strengthening the foundations of our democracy and well being of the State.

We in Arunachal Pradesh are a role model of 'unity in diversity' in India. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that despite being a pluralist society of many tribes, we cherish and continue to nourish our secular values and are proud of it.

The State is endowed with nature's bounty and has huge socio-economic potential awaiting to be unlocked. The Government has laid special focus on infrastructure, education, health and skill development and is working to harness our strength in hydropower, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and minerals. While carrying forward ecologically balanced development agenda, it has and will continue to eradicate poverty, check corruption and provide transparency in governance.

I compliment the vision of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki and his team and the efforts that they have made for the development of the State.

On this sacred occasion, I would like to share some of my views for realizing the vision of progressive, prosperous and vibrant Arunachal Pradesh.

The first and foremost, is to address the challenges in social sectors, particularly the Health and education. During my recent visits to the interior places, I realised that people are migrating to urban areas and the reason is lack or inadequate health and education facilities in those areas. The government has taken a number of steps and more is in the offing.

Second is to preserve our God gifted green environment. Arunachal Pradesh is recognised by its vast green cover, its rich flora and fauna. The indigenous communities have the tradition of taking care of the pristine green environment. Today, we have 67,959 Sq Km of 83,743 Sq Km under tree and forest cover, which is about 82% of its total geographical area. We have to preserve this asset for our prosperity and future generation.

To do all this, infrastructure has to be built by enhancing capacities, ensuring that our developmental projects are put on a fast track and all bottle necks removed. Only then can the fruits of development grow.

I am very happy to see the enthusiastic response of the community to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which has reinforced our campaign for a Clean, Green and Plastic Free Arunachal Pradesh. I wish that every member of the society including public leaders and administrators take up the responsibility to keep our house, colonies, roads, hospital, schools, market places and office premises clean and importantly green. In particular, We must take special pride and put in effort to show case the State Capital as a model city. Illegal construction and encroachment in the city are a cause of great concern and must be removed.

You all know that Itanagar like rest of the State experiences very heavy rainfall during the year, almost eight months but during winter, there is scarcity of water. We have to develop rainwater conservation techniques. Watershed approach including soil and water conservation need to be inculcated. We require sustainable water resource management and the role of hydrological modelling is paramount. Use of our latest space technologies for natural resource management in the State needs to be explored. Rain water harvesting must be encouraged and made mandatory in building construction. At the same time renewable energy, i.e. solar and wind must be encouraged.

Involvement of younger generation and youth is of paramount importance. I am happy that nine very popular members of the society are nominated to spread awareness as part of this Abhiyan in the State. The campaign is very popular and people from all walks of life are taking part in it. To sustain the change, focus must be on changing behaviour of the mass in personal hygiene habits. Every citizen should be motivated to own responsibility towards cleanliness. Educating the people must go beyond building toilets. They should be instilled with feeling of ownership of those facilities. We must also strengthen public health services.

The social and financial inclusion through Jan Dhan Yojna is yet another flagship programme to be worked upon and so are the measures to save energy and water. These initiatives led by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are apolitical in nature and should be seen as vital national imperatives for development.

What is heartening is to see peaceful democratic protests gradually replacing the bandh culture. It is good that the public institutions are under greater scrutiny and being strengthened. Also, a few examples of civil society standing up against extortion and corruption and fight against drugs menace reflect the healthy concern of the people and must be lauded. Well done and keep it up!

Having been associated with the State for long, I know that we have come a long way. However, some constraints are holding back our agenda. I would like to appeal to all my fellow Arunachalees to reflect on this very seriously. Each one of us has an equal stake and has to display a befitting sense of responsibility.

I specifically urge the elders in the society to fulfill their moral responsibility towards 'generation next' to guide and mentor them, to enable the youth to realize their full potential, to constructively work towards nation building and take the State to the heights of peace and prosperity.

I, not only as the Governor or the first citizen, but more as your 'Gaon Burah' as I would like to call myself, urge the youth in particular and their mentors to keep this in mind and ensure that energy of the youth is not diverted towards disruption, as also the social evils of corruption and criminal activities like extortion have to be fully eradicated. While retaining our rich cultural identity and values for the overall good, let us not waste our time and energy in petty intra and inter tribal and / or regional conflicts. Instead, these should invariably be resolved in a healthy democratic manner through debate and discussion.

In the last one year, slew of initiatives by the State Government have ushered in a new wave of development and increased State revenue. There is a new paradigm in planning and a vision for the next decade is being projected. Let me highlight the main thrust areas.

To build a happy home, first step is to have checks and balances for sound financial condition. In the same endeavour, the State Government has already enforced package of austerity and economic measures. It has been successful in maintaining fiscal discipline and controlling wasteful

expenditure. The State has also been successful in mobilizing State's own resources.

The State's own non tax revenue has increased from Rs. 316.51 crore in 2012-13 to 434.51 crore in 2013-14 showing an increase of 37.29%. It has set a target of Rs. 546.94 crore for 2014-15 which shows an increase by 25.89 % over the previous year. State's own non tax revenue has increased by 42.53% and set a target of Rs. 648.94 crore for 2014-15 showing increase by 60.21% over the previous year. The State's total own resources to be mobilized during 2014-15 has been estimated at Rs. 1197.88 crore as compared to Rs. 600.72 crore mobilized during 2012-13 which shows an increase by 99.08% over the year 2012-13.

To computerize Tax administration, the State Government has put in Mission Mode Project for Commercial Tax (MMPCT). It will bring in transparency and efficiency, thereby improve tax administration and increase revenue collection. Now all the taxation services and activities are being provided to the citizens through online.

In education sector, my Government in its endeavour to raise the literacy rate from the present 66% to 80% by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan period, will be focusing on improving the quality of education, creation of physical infrastructure and the ancillary facilities. It includes expansion of technical and vocational education, construction of school buildings, hostels and teachers' quarters in the remote areas. To promote excellence amongst the students, the Chief Minister's Talent Award scheme for meritorious students will be continued. Scholarships will be provided every year to the students on merit basis for pursuing B.Sc. (Honours) and M.SC. in the basic science subject i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology and Geology. Emphasizing on girl education, setting up of a Women's Degree College at Itanagar_during the current Academic year has been earmarked during this financial year. The Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in quality education, Vidya Scheme, Chief Minister's Talent Award Scheme and sanitary napkins scheme will be continued.

I would like to mention here that my Government has initiated various measures to achieve the goals of 'Zero Tolerance Policy' in this sector. Teacher absenteeism will be strictly dealt with and a master plan will be

developed for ensuring regular attendance of teachers and students, especially in remote villages. Rationalization of teacher postings, surprise inspections, use of biometric systems, starting of virtual classrooms, smart board and the distant education programmes are included. Web based education is also at the anvil. This is vital and I expect all of us to support the government in achieving our intended goal.

My Government has accorded topmost priority to Health sector with a very bold initiative. It has launched the revolutionary programme, the Chief Minister's Universal Health Insurance Scheme, which ensures every family Rs 2.00 Lakhs of cashless treatment per annum in any of the more than 60 empanelled hospitals spread across the Country. With the mission-'Health for All', I am sanguine that this scheme will have very far-reaching effects in improving the overall well-being of the State's Populace.

In this sector, the focus will be on providing integrated preventive, curative and rehabilitative services for communicable and non-communicable and nutrition related health problems. The State Government will stress on implementation of national programmes like Control of blindness, Malaria, eradication of Leprosy to combat major health problems and setting up of health centres along with residential accommodations for medical staff etc.

Along with these, implementation of various schemes for welfare and rehabilitation of disadvantaged people and implementation of nutrition programme are in the pipeline. Special focus will be given for juvenile, rehabilitation of persons with disability, empowering the socially disadvantaged groups especially women and development of child, resettlement of handicapped, welfare of destitute, old age pension and nutrition programme etc.

Apart from its relentless efforts for upgradation of many existing hospitals in different places, approval for setting up of medical college, Nursing College and schools and a Tertiary Cancer Care Centre at Naharlagun, the State Government is also exploring the feasibility for establishment of private hospitals having super specialty facilities under PPP mode.

I am very happy to inform that efforts are being made to fill in all the posts of specialists and super-specialists and specialist doctors in District hospitals in the near future. In all, improving medical services within the State is a high priority area.

In not too distant a future we should reach a stage where are patients do not have to go out of the State for treatment. Instead, the State becomes a hub of medical care in the North East.

Infrastructure development, in economic, services and social sectors, has been identified as key sector for economic growth and development. Establishing continuity of connectivity by filling in missing links, constructing bridges and protective and retention works are also one of the prime objectives of the State. Construction of Porter and Mule tracks, Foot Suspension Bridges along the rural link roads are also required to facilitate movement in the interior areas of the State as well as movement of defence personnel in the international border areas.

At the same time, master plans will be developed for all the major towns of the State to ensure planned development incorporating all modern amenities and to check haphazard growth. Effective Third Party Monitoring of projects under SPA and BADP to ensure judicious utilization of resources and timely completion of projects will continue.

In this sector, under the Prime Minister's Special Economic Package, which is estimated to be about Rs 33,000 Crore, some of the very important projects such as the Itanagar Water Supply, and Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway line have been completed. The works on the Trans-Arunachal Highway and District Connectivity, Advanced Landing grounds, 110 MW Pare Hydro electrical Project, Tezu Airport and Civil Secretariat etc. are progressing satisfactorily. **Efforts are being made to expedite the implementation of the pending projects in fixed time frame. My Government is working on these lines. It is a vital national security and development imperative and holds the key to unlock our huge socio economic potential. I appeal to all my Arunachalees to be part of this campaign and work in tandem with the government and together ensure that infrastructure development is on a fast track.**

Power development would be accorded the highest priority. Promoting investment in utilization of huge hydro-power potential through mini, micro and large hydropower projects, completion of incomplete and languishing hydropower projects along with the capacity addition programme, development of Transmission, Sub-transmission and System Improvement will be accorded priority. Strengthening of High Voltage Power Transmission and

Distribution Systems in the State has been sanctioned and work will be resumed soon. It is targeted to complete 17 projects with an installed capacity of 39.49 MW to benefit 404 villages. In line of central government policy for effective utilization of energy, the State Government proposes to install 8589 LED based solar home lighting system in the households of villages which are still deprived of electricity supply. **Saving of power, reducing transmission losses and use of non conventional sources of energy are our priority areas.**

A comprehensive 132 KV Trans Arunachal Transmission Grid amounting to Rs 3200 Crores has been sanctioned recently and the works will commence shortly. This project when complete will provide an end to end power related solution of the State in addition to the reliable broadband connectivity to all districts which is inbuilt in the project.

Tourism has huge economic importance. It makes significant contribution in many countries' national GDP. Hence, promotion of tourism by improving connectivity, tourist facilities, stress on adventure tourism, eco tourism and cultural tourism in the State and development of tourist circuits etc. are special focus areas in Arunachal Pradesh. The Chief Minister's Paryatan Vikas Yojana, which provides subsidized cabs to unemployed youths to promote tourism entrepreneurship will continue.

The State Government has identified unused and idle assets located in the different parts of the state for leasing out on PPP mode. The Deputy Commissioners are authorized to lease out Tourist infrastructure as per leasing policy approved by the Government. Unemployed educated youths are encouraged to take up Tour Operator's business by granting them license with nominal fees for Government revenue. To increase tourist inflow extensive publicity and promotion campaign are being carried out in both print and electronic media and also through fairs and festivals by the State Government. **In this regard care is being taken to ensure that ecologically balanced infrastructure to showcase our tribal culture, flora fauna and scenic beauty.**

Most of the people of the State belong to agrarian community. To improve the productivity, Chief Minister's Agri Mechanisation programme is continued under which 2165 farmers benefitted in the last financial year and generated one lakh three thousand seven hundred and fifty man-days for

employment. Subsidy for 100 tractors, 315 power tillers, 500 paddy dehusking machines and 1250 water pumping sets were provided. This endeavour along with National Food Security Mission and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes resulted in approximately 4.1% growth in overall crop production in the State in 2013-14. **It is proud moment for all of us that our State has been selected by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India consecutively for third time for 'Krishi Karman Commendation Award' for higher food production. During 2014-15, total targeted crop production is 7.20 lakh Metric Tonnes, which will be approximately 5.2% increase over 2013-14.**

The State Government has initiated new initiatives on promotion of organic farming with notification of Arunachal State Policy on Organic Farming and has launched National Mission on sustainable agriculture, National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm and National Mission of Agriculture Extension and Technology. I am sure these missions will have impact on the production and most importantly, our agrarian community will benefit.

Irrigation is a vital input for enhancing crop productivity. So far the State Government has created irrigation potential of 0.92 lakh hectares. In 2014-15, it has set a target to cover additional 4911 hectares. State Govt. is committed to increase productivity and production of allied activities like dairy, poultry, fishery and forestry also.

Along with Agriculture, Horticulture is one of the important sectors, which can bring real sustainable development in the State. During 2013-14, 6,282 Hectares of additional areas were brought under horticultural crops, including spices taking the total area to 1,10,470 hectares producing 3,38,970 metric tonnes of produce. In the current financial year, 3000 hectares have been targeted to be brought under it. The Government is in the process of establishing a Centre of Excellence for production of quality planting materials at Salary in West Kameng, Joirampur in Changlang and Jomlo in West Siang District. It also proposes for construction of gravity operated ropeways for transportation of horticulture produce, integrated pack house, refrigerated transport vehicles, environmentally controlled retail outlets and training and exposure tours for the farmers in the current financial year.

Today, Arunachal Pradesh is producing large quantities of various fruits like oranges, pineapples, kiwi and apple. Maximum area is under oranges and pineapples. Large cardamom is emerging as major Spice crop of Arunachal Pradesh. Efforts have been initiated to introduce surplus cultivation in the State. **The State Government is also prioritizing intensive cultivation of selected horticulture crops through National Horticulture Mission in various regions with processing and marketing facilities alongside undertaking integrated bamboo mission.**

Ours is largely an agriculture-based economy with very little industrialization and has its share of problems in areas of employment. To mitigate this challenge, the State Government has launched Chief Minister's Skill Development Programme in the State. Under this initiative, Job Melas are organised throughout the State in which till date 3,530 youths have been sponsored for Skill Development training, involving 28 Vocational Training Providers. 50% of the trainees got placement or jobs with salary ranging from Rs. 10,000.00 to 20,000.00 per month. **The efforts of the State Government have been recognised and awarded with 'India's Best Project 2014' for excellent implementation of Skill Development Programme in the State by the Skoch Group.** There are more than 15 disciplines in which training is provided which includes Hospitality, Security Guard, Information & Communication Technology, Beauty Culture & Hair Dressing, Spa & Wellness, Travelling & Tourism, Banking & Accounting, Plastic Processing, Garment Making, Medical & Nursing, Earth Mover Operator, Operator-cum-Driver, Construction, Electrician and Automobiles etc.

The State Government is proposing to establish 100 Skill Development Centres; one each in every CD block, one ITI and one Chief Minister's Livelihood Mission School in every district in phase manner. You will be happy to know that Skill based courses have been introduced in the Rajiv Gandhi University also which will benefit our youths to a large extent.

All the young people here have to understand that it is in your determination and dedication and choice to become what you want. You have to develop yourself. Instil required education and capacity. And the State Government is always there to help and assist.

The youth are the assets of the State. Harnessing the youth power is one of the top priorities. Recent success in games and sports is very

encouraging reflecting the huge potential and sporting talent of the State. Our boys and girls did exceptionally good in archery, badminton, boxing, Judo, Karate, weightlifting and various martial arts. A new national record in weightlifting by Jimjang Deru is icing on the cake. I congratulate all the medal winners for bringing laurels to the State in the sporting arenas. We have a large number of achievers in various disciplines. The list is endless and still adding.

In this direction, my Government has decided to announce a **comprehensive Sports Policy for the youths** whereby there will be a significant enhancement of benefits, including job reservations to sportsmen and women bringing laurels for the State at national and international levels. **It has also decided to construct stadiums at each District Head-quarters and other important locations** in a phased manner. A project for up-gradation of infrastructure at Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy will also be undertaken. The Chief Minister's Trophy of Football and Volleyball to promote football and volleyball games at Block, District and State level, both in men and women categories will continue.

Our State is blessed with enormous quantity of natural resources. Scientific exploration and exploitation of timber resources, minor forest resources and mining of minerals will be taken up in accordance with the Working Plan. Development of industries based on local resources and exploration of reserves of oil gas, coal, lime stones etc. are the main economic activities of the State.

For systematic and scientific extraction of construction materials and aggregates, 123 Nos. minor mineral quarries have been notified. To feed the demand of minor minerals for ongoing developmental projects, the efforts are being made to identify and notify more quarries. To prevent alleged unauthorized transportation of mineral resources, 31 Nos. of mineral check gates have been constructed in all vulnerable locations near by the quarries and inter State Border.

Under the provision of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, **Prospecting Licenses have been granted to 22 Companies for preliminary survey & investigation of potential mineral deposits in the State.** The State Government is monitoring the activities of the oil companies and substantial revenue is earned in the form of royalty from the oil production.

Special attention shall be given to the border areas to provide the basic amenities of life to the villages situated in areas bordering China, Myanmar and Bhutan to meet the special needs of the people and to remove the critical gaps in physical and social infrastructural needs and promotion of sense of security amongst the local population.

Chief Minister's Welfare Scheme will be launched for the consumers residing in the International Border villages. The scheme will provide 10 kg rice and 1 Kg of salt free of cost to each family in a month. To strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) adequate storage facilities particularly in Border areas will be created for implementation of the National Food Security Act 2013. In the Border areas, where Power Transmission and Distribution lines are not laid out, power will be made available by generation through Non-Conventional Sources of Energy. The financial allocation will be enhanced for the border areas to strengthen the infrastructure in Health and Education Sector and to take up construction of porter tracks, suspension bridges and Helipads with provision of rest houses.

A Loan-cum-Subsidy Scheme for purchase of a medium size transport vehicle for transportation of essential commodities in the border areas for eligible unemployed youth will be provided through State Cooperative Apex Bank Limited.

Arunachal Pradesh is adorned with rich cultural diversity. Preservation of the heterogeneous and vibrant culture of the people and encouragement to contemporary arts has been the mandate of the Government. The State Government has organised mega cultural events, including Border Area Cultural Festival, Umang Cultural Festival and presented the first ever children parade contingent in Republic Day 2014. It will continue to provide financial assistance for construction of community halls and promotion of indigenous festivals, songs and dramas.

Arunachal State Film Festival has been an annual event for last two years. In order to promote film production in the State and for setting up of Film Institute and have a Film Finance Scheme for film makes for the Arunachal, an initial allocation is proposed during current fiscal. **Construction of Media Housing Colony, both for print and electronic media persons through the Arunachal Pradesh Housing Board has been proposed. An Indigenous Cultural and**

Traditional Centre will be established to preserve and promote the rich indigenous practice.

The year also saw loss of lives and materials due to natural calamities, fire accidents, and law and order challenges. In spite of inter-State boundary issues, ethnic differences, kidnapping and murder, the committed spirit, courage and determination shown by the State Government and people of the State, have facilitated in maintaining normalcy.

What is heartening is to see peaceful democratic protest replacing the bandh culture in the State. It is good that the public institutions are under greater scrutiny and being strengthened. The people protests against extortion and corruption and fight against drugs menace reflects the healthy concern of the people.

The State Government is working to set up Women Police Station at all District Headquarters.

Some of the other important policy initiatives of my Government include, necessary steps taken to make the Lok Ayukta in Arunachal Pradesh functional during the current financial year, construction of properly planned and designed Martyrs Memorial here in this Indira Gandhi Park, Itanagar, and regular maintenance of roads in the capital complex. Allocation of fund under MLA Local Area Development Fund has been enhanced from Rs. 1.00 Crore to Rs. 1.25 Crore per assembly constituency from the current fiscal.

One of the major concerns of the State Government is to redress the economic backwardness of the State. Effort is always there to improve economic and financial condition of the poorer section of the people. Still a large chunk of the population comes under Below Poverty Level. Upliftment of the BPL families above the poverty line through creation of community infrastructural assets with employment opportunities for sustainable economic development through Centrally Sponsored Poverty Alleviation programmes like SGSY, IAY, MG-NREGA, Hariyali etc. will be our priority area. In this direction, the schemes of e-PDS will be launched in 8 districts of the State during this year to bring in higher transparency in ration distribution.

Under National Urban Livelihood Mission, the State Government has proposed to train 4900 urban poor to make them employable, assist 1350 urban poor

for setting up micro enterprises and group enterprises. I am happy that under Indira Awaas Yojana, 1772 of 2017 units of houses have been constructed in the current financial year.

With special focus on people with disabilities, Chief Minister's Disability Pension Scheme was launched and large number of people have been benefited.

As we all know, access to finance by the poor and vulnerable groups is a prerequisite for poverty reduction and social cohesion. This has to become an integral part of our efforts to promote inclusive growth and financial inclusion. It is a fact, providing access to finance is a form of empowerment of the vulnerable groups.

For all the special efforts in the financial inclusion, efforts have been made to open bank accounts for each and every citizen. The endeavour is there for opening bank accounts to cover 100% population of the State. The JAN DHAN YOJNA, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is being put into effect with full gusto.

My Government has been emphasizing on grassroots governance. To ensure maximum people participation in governance and participatory local self-government, powers have been devolved to Panchayati Raj institution. Arunachal Pradesh was recognized as the fifth 'Best Performing State' in the country in terms of devolution of power to Panchayati Raj Institutes and the State received a cash award of Rs. 1.00 Crore along with a citation.

In its endeavour to bring prosperity in the State, the State Government has chalked out the priority areas in its Annual Plan for the coming year.

The Prime Minister of India launched the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana on 11th October 2014. Under the programme Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and Union Minister of State for Home Shri Kiren Rijiju has selected Yigi Kaum Village in West Siang District, while Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) Shri Ninong Ering has selected Taki Lalung in East Sianbg district. Hon;ble MP (Rajya Sabha) has selected Kera-aa-ati in Lower Dibang Valley District. State Government has constituted State Level Power Committee to carry out the noble task of creating Model Villages.

Today, when President of America is the Chief Guest of our Republic Day function in New Delhi, it reminds me of their former President John F. Kennedy's quotation, when he said, I quote, 'My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country'. Unquote.

I appeal you all to think and strive what you can do for your State. Let us take a resolution to put in concerted effort to secure our future and future of our children through our collective endeavours as a Team Arunachal. Let us provide our children opportunity to excel to their fullest potential.

My words of advice to all the Government officials are that you must be role model for the people. Remember what Gandhi ji said. He said I quote 'the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others'. Unquote. I wish and am confident that you will do it.

A practicing mature democracy has to be participatory with each citizen contributing in nation building. In that the elders in our communities/ tribes and public figures have to be social reformers so that we retain the good in our culture and shed the distortions that have crept in. I am reminded of our Father of the Nation, who said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Collectively, we need to rise above narrow personal greed and interests and see the bigger picture. Personal interest must be subordinated to the interest of community and the country.

In that we have to be prepared to make personal sacrifices for the common good. For example, land acquisition many a times holds up development and most projects invariably suffer from time and cost over runs. Time is of essence and we have to speed up our developmental projects by creating a conducive and cooperative environment. We must ensure that the benefits of development reach even the remotest corner of the State and to the poorest of all in a fair and transparent manner.

Let us realize our dreams and give shape to our aspirations. Let development and progress be the key to good governance. Let there be a

transparent and accountable administration, which works for the betterment and welfare of common people guided by 'Citizen First' principle.

Let us all share the optimism and rise above differences. Let us make our society bestowed with communal harmony, just and free from drugs menace.

To conclude, I am proud of all the patriotic people of Arunachal Pradesh who have demonstrated their indomitable Arunachali spirit, immense moral courage and fortitude in standing resolute against all odds, actively working tirelessly for maintaining peace and harmony, and at the same time, vigorously pursuing the developmental activities in the State.

Let me also express my deep gratitude to all the officers and officials of the State Govt. and the Central Govt., military and para-military forces and other organizations working in the State in a spirit of dedicated and selfless service. I commend the public representatives, our Panchayati leaders, Gaon Burahs and Burihs, youths, students, NGOs, friends from the media and all the people of Arunachal Pradesh for their role in promoting development in the State.

The State Police, CRPF, ITBP, NCC, Scouts and Guides as well as students had a smart turn-out and demonstrated a very high standard of drill during the parade. The members of different cultural troupes and school children of various schools put up a beautiful and vibrant cultural show. My appreciation is due to each one of them.

Once again, best wishes and greetings to all my brothers and sisters of the State and the country. Let each one of us be conscious of the fact that we are the citizens of a great nation with a glorious past and a great future.

Jai Hind. Jai Arunachal.