



**SPEECH**

**OF**

**HIS EXCELLENCY GEN JJ SINGH,**

**PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),**

**GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**"TEACHER'S STATE AWARD CEREMONY"**

**AT**

**BANQUET HALL, ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**SATURDAY, 05 SEP, 2009**

At the very outset let me congratulate all the teachers who have been felicitated today. I hope the award which has been conferred on them for their sincere and dedicated service in the field of education will further encourage each one of the awardees and also their colleagues to rededicate themselves to build a quantum of human resources that have the highest degree of knowledge and intellectual ability.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, on this special occasion let us pay our glowing tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, one of the most illustrious sons of Mother India, for being the inspiration to one of the most important pillars of social upliftment and empowerment, our teachers who are better known as gurus. We take pride in his thoughts

and teachings, which bear the stamp of distinctive genius for clarity and precision.

Dr Radhakrishnan was the embodiment of righteousness and high moral values. His philosophy and teachings inspire all of us to commit ourselves to the cause of the illiterate with service and sacrifice. Even today, he is a role model for our teachers. As a tribute to him and also to show our acknowledgement and recognition of the hard work put in by our teachers towards our development, the Teacher's Day is celebrated all over the country. I trust the occasion will inspire us to follow the highest moral and ethical values of Dr Radhakrishnan and become the best minds in the country as once our former President APJ Abdul Kalam said. Edward Everett said,

'Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing Army.'

Friends, today is the day, we should observe as the day of retrospection. As guardians of the future generation, we must question ourselves today, what we have given to our wards, the students? What has been our contribution towards them? And what more can we do to make their future bright?

As you all know, a good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others. Along with good teaching in the classroom, you should be a role model for your students, an inspiration and a very good example. Teach your students by what you are, not just by what you say.

Friends, you are the ones who mould the lives of your wards through your good efforts and influence. Lessons learned from teachers remain with their students throughout life. Teachers that break down barriers and reach into the souls of the students for whom they are responsible, are the most respected persons in society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, going into the fundamentals of teaching, I would say that the basic idea of teaching should be to teach a person what he or she needs to know. Teaching should be full of ideas instead of stuffed with facts. The job of an educator is to teach students to see the vitality in themselves. As a saying goes, 'The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher

demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.' In the same vein, a Chinese Proverb says, I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand." You should guide without dictating, and participate without dominating.

Another thing I would like to point out is spoon feeding. Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon. Be sensible to all. Every student has unique and special abilities. Some may not be as quick learners as others. You have to be patient in dealing with such cases. Try to understand your wards separately. Their behavior makes sense if you think about it in terms of their goals, needs, and motives. And, as always take pride in your work. You see, to teach is to learn twice.

As I have mentioned earlier, you are amongst the most important pillars of social upliftment and empowerment. You have the ability to inculcate the basic character in the children. The will to work hard and excel in life. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. This should be your objective. The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited.

Every other day, I read in the papers of shortage of teachers. I don't want to go into the details, but I feel, if we are dedicated and just in our approach, we will not see such a situation. I am pained to know that there are children coming to school but as the teachers are not available they have to turn back. I think, we are

thinking too much about effective methods of teaching and not enough about effective methods of learning. As a teacher, we must learn and know our responsibilities. Good teachers are costly, but bad teachers cost more. In the same breath, I would like to state that teachers need encouragement and support from the community to feel that their devotion to students is appreciated. I would like to place on record my appreciation to those teachers who are serving in the interior areas where they have to walk days together to reach, but they still have the spirit to give their best.

I am confident with hard work of the teaching community we can and we will remove the stigma of 54.74% literacy rate. I termed it as stigma, because we are much behind the

National literacy rate of 65.38%. After all, we have one of the least population ratios. When we have the will to preserve our pristine environment, we can also do it. As I always said, if the cause is just and your path is righteous, success will always be with you.

Friends, you will be happy to know, today, I have launched the Edusat Network in Rajiv Gandhi University. It is a two-way networking, where you can interact with the persons you see in the monitor, unlike our television. With the latest technology and help from ISRO added, it will be of immense benefit for our students and teachers alike. I have requested the Vice Chancellor for optimum utilization of the facility. I am sure our teachers will be called for training cum learning very soon. Remember the saying

by John Dewey 'Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.'

Before, I conclude, once again I extend my heartiest congratulations to the teaching community for their hard work and dedication towards their profession. I am confident they will help us in building a society of intellectuals, able minds and bodies so that our beloved State of Arunachal Pradesh can further forge ahead in the field of education and all round development. With individual contribution of each one of you, our can become one of the leading States in the country. Therefore, let us be part of 'Team Arunachal,' and put in our best towards the development and prosperity of our beloved State.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.