



SPEECH

OF

**GENERAL (RETD) J J SINGH,
PVSM, AVSM, VSM**

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

ON THE OCCASION

OF

**1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF THE PRESENT STATE GOVERNMENT LED BY
SHRI DORJEE KHANDU**

**ITANAGAR
15TH APRIL, 2008**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Dorjee Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and Guest of Honour for today's function Shri Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Health Minister of Assam and today's our special guest Shri Mukut Mithi, Cabinet Ministers, Distinguished guests and my dear brothers, sisters and children of Arunachal Pradesh !

It is indeed a privilege for me to be with you all here today on the occasion of first anniversary celebration of the present Government of Arunachal Pradesh, led by Shri Dorjee Khandu, as Chief Minister. I take this opportunity to convey my greetings and best wishes to the Chief Minister, his Cabinet colleagues and all Arunachalee brothers and sisters on this auspicious occasion.

2) My association with this Government is just two and half months long, but in this short span of time I realized that the Government is committed for the all-round development of the State. This commitment is strongly reflected from the two words used by the Government to depict its priority. These two magic words are 'People First!' With these two words the Government has made it very clear that for every act of the governance the people, the citizen will be at the center. All the programmes and policies of the Government will be people friendly. I congratulate Shri Khandu for giving such a mission statement for his Government!

3) Friends, you all are aware that last year on 9th April, when Shri Khandu was sworn in as the Chief Minister, he promised that within shortest possible time his government will revive the Arunachal

Pradesh Co-op APEX Bank, will ensure availability of food-grains to the remote areas through Public Distribution System and work for the elimination of corruption. On this first anniversary, I am happy to say that all the three promises have been addressed by the Government. It goes to the credit of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu and his Cabinet colleagues that despite several odds they could manage to revive the Aunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank Limited and streamline Public Distribution System (PDS). Six Depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) have been opened at Ziro, Seppa, Tawang, Daporijo, Tezu and Anini, which have given a great amount of food security and also arrested the misuse and diversion of the PDS items and involved the Coop Societies in the management of PDS. The Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank Limited, which was defunct for many years, is now revived and functioning smoothly. This single step has benefited more than one lakh customers, majority of whom are poor, living below poverty line in very remote areas. The present Government has taken a keen initiative to eliminate corruption. As a step towards this dimension and judicious implementation of all schemes, the Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu has made it mandatory for all Departments to resort to proper documentation through still and video-graphy while executing works. Sanctions have been obtained for the new Assembly Secretariat buildings. Many of our infrastructure projects such as two lane highway connectivity for all the districts; safe drinking water supply for Itanagar; operationalization of airports at Pasighat, Aalo, Daporijo, Ziro, Tezu, Tuting, Mechuka, Vijaynagar and Walong; one time grant for long term reconstruction of

flood damaged assets; one time grant for completing long term pending incomplete schemes; initiating hydro-electric power development and so on, were sanctioned by the central Government. Apart from these tangible projects, there have been many intangible achievements of the Government during the last one year for deserve to be noted.

4) As you all know that the law and order situation remained peaceful during the last one year despite sporadic violence and provocations at some places, particularly in Tirap and Changlang districts. The brutal murder of our former MP Shri Wangcha Rajkumar is an eye opener for us. However, I am proud to say that all our Arunachalee brothers and sisters have been historically patriotic and peace loving people which have been proved by absence of support for outside underground or terrorist organizations. It is a fact that comparatively speaking, our state is known as an island of peace in the troubled waters of North-East. However, our districts in eastern part have already started feeling the heat of militancy. There is an urgent need to evolve corrective actions to nip this in the bud to ensure that our State witnesses peace and prosperity. On this occasion let me advise this Government to make all efforts to bring back normalcy in the insurgency affected areas of our State and synergize the efforts of the law and order enforcing machinery.

5) The border with Assam is a contentious issue for both the States. Taking advantage of the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam here, let me appeal to both the Chief Ministers to work jointly to

solve this problem amicably. Gogoi sahib, let me request you that being the largest and eldest State in the North-east, Assam is expected to play the role of magnanimous big-brother of Arunachal Pradesh. However, let us also make a resolve to find a solution to this issue in a time bound manner.

6) The 'Look-East policy' initiated by the Central Government is going to be a development booster in the entire North East region. In today's circumstances, Look East policy cannot be successful without the North-East being equal partner in the development. I hope that with the sincere and people friendly Government at present under the stewardship of Shri Dorjee Khandu and his able team of Cabinet colleagues, Arunachal Pradesh, being one of the important States of the region, will be able to optimize maximum benefits under this policy. As I once said, it is interesting to note that if one were to draw an arc with 1000 km as radius with Itanagar as hub, the circle will encompass eight countries of this part of the world. This itself reflects the importance of this region in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular.

7) Many times, Arunachal Pradesh is being referred as the State dependent on central aid. But let me assure you that once we develop our 55000 MW hydro-potential by the end of thirteenth five year plan, we will not only be self sufficient but will also contribute for rapid economic growth of the country. There is no second opinion about the fact that without sufficient electricity the country cannot grow and we are the future powerhouse of the country and hence we could expect preferential treatment in all the developmental aspects.

8) I take this opportunity to appeal to our leaders, senior Government functionaries and the people of our State to use in an innovative and productive manner, whatever support and assistance we get from the Central Government. We must work hard in improving our administrative mechanism so that the quality of services are delivered in the best interests of the citizens in remote villages on a fast track approach. Our endeavor should be to improve the quality of life of each and every citizen of this State at the earliest possible. We should also keep our eyes and ears open and study some of the success stories of nearby North-Eastern States and try to emulate these success stories in our State. Recently, I came across the CAG Report which has criticized the performance of some of the departments. The Government should take necessary step to ensure that all the observations made in the CAG Report are duly taken care of. Of course, development does not mean only the infusion of funds and resources. As Pt Jawaharlal Nehru had once said, "*We should judge results not by the statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character that is evolved*", our aim is to have a holistic development encompassing all the aspects of human life. The time has come for the entire government process re-engineering to re-orient the processes towards the poorest of the poor of the State. Let us prove to the world that our State is marching towards achieving the aim of peace and prosperity.

9) Friends, both Central and the State Governments are working hard for the overall development of our state. Recently Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited our State and announced various important developmental programmes of over ten thousand crores. Hence, we are confident that within a reasonable span of time, Arunachal Pradesh will catch up with other developed states of our

country. The Hon,ble Prime Minister's initiatives, such as Trans-Arunachal Highway (to get relief from the frequent Assam bandhs); Border Village Illumination Programme; connection of 513 habitations by roads under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna; green-field airport at Itanagar and rails connectivity for Itanagar are revolutionary as far as the betterment of socio-economic profile of this State is concerned.

10) Another major achievement of the present Government has been the passing of the bill for amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order, 1950 to give effect to the long pending demand for the change of the nomenclature from Dafla to Nyishi. Our State is grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh for his interest and blessings towards fulfillment of people's aspiration.

11) Ever since I took over as Governor of this majestic Himalayan State , I had held one-on-one meetings with Union Ministers for Home Affairs, Defence, Railways, Tourism, Civil Aviation, Communication and Information Technology and Surface Transport, presenting the State's aspirations, showcasing its potential and demanding its due. My emphasis is on opening up of Mechuka and Tawang sectors to Indian and foreign tourists; working on a green field airport at Itanagar and Tawang; to getting Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide mobile telecommunication in Arunachal's border areas as also relaxing Restricted Area Permit (RAP) for foreign tourists while simultaneously streamlining the system of Inner Line Permits (ILPs) to Indian nationals. During my meeting with Railways Minister Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, my primary agenda was expeditious completion of railway line

from Harmoty to Itanagar to establish easy connectivity with rest of the country. When I met Civil Aviation Minister Shri Praful Patel I insisted that air connectivity will remove the feeling of isolation and will work as a catalyst for rapid development of the area. I impressed upon the Minister reiterating the Airports Authority of India's opinion that a green field airport at Itanagar and Tawang was feasible provided the funding pattern was the same for both airports and there was a need to put these projects on a fast track for tourism as well as strategic reasons.

12) Myself along-with the Chief Minister have reviewed the development activities in the State in a day-long conference at Raj Bhavan on 8th April, 2008. Through detailed discussion assisted by power point presentations with all Hon'ble Ministers, Commissioners, Secretaries and Chief Engineers in a single forum, we got ourselves thoroughly up-dated with the problems and prospects in different fields. I was happy that some of the departments are working well. But we should not be complacent at this juncture. Hard work with dedication at all levels of the Government machinery and with a changed mind set and work culture, we should encourage people's participation in a large way so that Arunachal should become one of the most developed States of the nation in terms of GDP and high per capita income of the people. At the same time we need to emphasize on proper publicity on various projects and programmes of the government especially under Industries, Tourism, Horticulture and Transportation sectors to provide required exposure of the huge potential in these sectors and promote private investments which will improve the economic condition of the

people and the standard of living. We should encourage development of various small scale industries; a few beneficial ventures could be handicrafts, poultry, piggery and bee keeping. Bamboo and orchid cultivation are equally important ventures to boost up the local economy and are sure to make our State the largest orchid and bamboo producer of the country. We should also be careful not to destroy the environment and ecology and say No to plastic bags.

13) I appeal to each and every Arunachalee to work hard, particularly the students and youths and for all of you to remember the inspiring message given by our father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi as a beacon light of our all round progress, quote *“I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”* unquote. And during my various district visits and interaction with many sections of the people of Arunachal, I have realized that the Arunacahlee has adopted a right strategy that is ‘acceptance of modernity and at the same time adhering to the ancient culture and traditions!’

14) Shri Khandu, you and your team are doing an excellent work and I extend all my best wishes to you to continue the good work for the betterment of the poorest of the poor of this State.

15) Finally, I take this opportunity to request each and everyone, including the political leaders, Government servants and the youth to join hands in the developmental process by working hard and with

sincerity to realize the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister which he shared with us on this platform on 31st January this year, when he said "*Arunachal Pradesh will rise from the East as a new star and become one of the best regions of our country*". Thank you.

Jai hind

Jai Arunachal.