



सत्यमेव जयते

SPEECH
OF
SMT ANUPAMA SINGH,
FIRST LADY OF THE STATE
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION OF
PLANTATION PROGRAMME
NEAR RAJ BHAVAN DISPENSARY,
ITANAGAR
ON
SUNDAY, 16 AUG, 2009
0930 HRS

His Excellency Gen JJ Singh, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, officers and officials from department of Environment and Forests, members of Muskan, media persons and my dear beloved children and teachers.

First of all, let me extend my heartiest gratitude to each one of you for coming over here and participating in the plantation programme, a Raj Bhavan initiative, organized by Muskan Society in collaboration with department of Environment and Forests. It is our pleasure to have you all this Sunday morning here at the Raj Bhavan Complex. I am sure, with your enthusiastic participations, we can counter the ever-depleting forest covers of our beautiful State of Arunachal Pradesh. Moreover, it has given us immense confidence so that the Muskan Society can take up more social-economic upliftment and environment related projects in the future.

We ask ourselves - why plant a tree

Thousands of years ago, when man first settled and began to grow crops, half the earth's land mass was covered in thick forest. Today, less than a third is still forested. Over the last 10 years, forest cover has diminished by 2.4 per cent worldwide. All plants release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide in order to survive and in so doing help cleanse the atmosphere. A hectare of mature forest absorbs the equivalent of year's worth of carbon dioxide emissions from 250 cars.

Plant a tree and join in the fight against global warming and atmospheric pollution caused by carbon dioxide emissions.

Friends you will be happy to know, that you are joined by every Arunachalee throughout the state today. In every corner of the state, we are carrying out this plantation programme, which aims to preserve our own identity as Arunachalee. Without the greenery of our land, our identity will be lost. The earth is one only beautiful home, and one doesn't destroy one's house and be happy. If we love nature, we must protect its beauty

and harmony by not defacing it. It is important that we keep resources like water, air, soil, ozone layers clean without polluting them and allow the flora and fauna to grow and live. Polluted water, plastics, noise and fumes from the vehicles and factories pollute environment. Therefore, we must be very careful.

In every corner of the state, we almost half of the earth's original forests have disappeared & 20% of the forests remain large enough to maintain their biodiversity.

Friends and children, as you are aware, Muskan Society is working for the cause of socially deprived people, for women up-liftment, child care, health and education. You will be happy to know, the society inspite of being in nascent stage, has been striving to improve the living conditions of the women, through promoting income generation activities and projects. Special focus has always being for the destitute, widows and orphans, so that such women may view themselves as equal part in the society. Efforts are there to improve health status of women through sustainable health

facilities and better health care, sanitation and environment. We have also taken on the responsibility of sponsoring the education of few needy children from remote areas. It is on the initiative of Muskan, that four Arunachalee children could avail free heart treatment in Delhi. We are stressing on cottage industries as part of women empowerment.

As the first initiative, to encourage outdoor activities for the children, we have set up the first toy train of the State. For that of course, I want to express my gratitude to His Excellency the Governor, our friends in Nyokum Festival Committee, members of Muskan and our chivalrous acquaintances who helped us.

I am happy to inform you all, that recently we have organized a hiking expedition for children. It was a small effort of the society to promote adventure and eco tourism of our beautiful State. In fact it was also our effort in bringing our children to outdoor from the seats in front of TV screens.

As you all know, outdoor play is very important. It is because kids really gain a sense of mastery and competency from outdoor play. They also gain important physical skills for a healthy tomorrow for our future generations, I would like to urge upon the parents and guardians to give emphasis on outdoor activities.

It is also most important to respect nature and the environment when taking part in outdoor activities.

Before I conclude, once again, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency, the Governor for his initiative and advice and senior officers and officials of Environment and Forest for the help and logistic support and all Muskan members of you for taking part in the plantation.

Last, but not the least, I would like to appeal to all of you, 'Come and join us, the members of Muskan Society in our endeavour to bring Muskan-a Smile on every child's face.

Thank you.