



**SPEECH**

**OF**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

**GEN JJ SINGH, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD)**

**GOVERNOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION**

**OF**

**24<sup>TH</sup> STATE-HOOD DAY CELEBRATION**

**AT**

**I.G. PARK, ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

*Hon'ble Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Farooq Abdullah Ji*

*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Dorjee khandu Ji*

*Distinguished leaders, officers and dignitaries on and off the dais*

*Friends from the Media*

*My dear brothers, sisters and children of Arunachal Pradesh*

On the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the people of our State and in particular to all of you, who have gathered here today to be a part of these joyous celebrations. I pay gratitude to our teachers, doctors, engineers, administrators, all ranks of the Army, police and para-military forces, Panchayat Leaders, Gaon Burahs, youth and students whose untiring efforts are today helping us realize our dream of a vibrant and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh.

2. At the outset, I would like to pay homage to Shri Chow Khamoon Gohain Namshum, the first Lok Sabha MP from North East Frontier Agency who left for his heavenly abode on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2010. I also remember the many young and innocent lives snatched away from us by the cruel hands of destiny in the recent fire-incident at Palin and assure all the grief-stricken parents that we all stand by them in their hour of grief and their loss is equally felt by us.

3. I also remember our dynamic and visionary Prime Minister Late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi, who in 1987 gave us the status, constitutional dignity and responsibility of a full State within the Union of India. Fifteen years earlier than that, NEFA had been granted the status of a Union Territory by our beloved Prime Minister Late. Smt. Indira Gandhi. We are all proud that this special place for Arunachal Pradesh in the hearts of our senior-most leaders in New Delhi has persisted and further strengthened with the recent visits of the Hon'ble President, Prime Minister and a host of other high ranking officials.

I, in particular thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for taking a keen personal interest in all the development initiatives of our State.

4. Ours is a young State, and we, as its residents, too have a dream. A dream of realizing a State built on the foundations of an equal and just society, promoting liberty of thought and fraternity and brotherhood amongst the citizens. Today is the time to remind ourselves that we are a part of the phase in the development history of Arunachal Pradesh which will be remembered by all generations to come. Let us therefore renew our commitment to use our united strength, determination and sense of unity and purpose to greet the great future that beckons our State.

5. The last twenty three years have seen a tremendous surge in every field of development. Committed to the People First Approach, my Govt. under the able leadership of Shri Dorjee Khandu is determined to make Arunachal Pradesh a role model of all-round development. At the same time, our efforts will continue to ensure that the fruits of this all-round development reach all the sections of the Society.

6. The people of Arunachal Pradesh have reposed their faith in the policies and the activities of the State Govt. by voting it back to power in the recently concluded Assembly elections. By turning out in record numbers, they have also demonstrated their love for the strong democratic traditions of the Country. I compliment all Arunachalis for the same. I also extend appreciation and greeting to the entire team of officers led by the Chief Electoral officer for the successful conduct of both the Parliamentary and Assembly Elections in the State.

7. We are witnessing an increase in the pace of implementation of PM package projects, at the same time, we are witnessing some mega infrastructure projects taking shape in the State. Work on the State-of-the-art Secretariat and Assembly Building is already under progress. Due to the persistent efforts of the State Govt., a National Institute of Technology, a Medical college and a Law college have already been sanctioned and are expected to start academic sessions alongwith the infrastructure very soon. The progress of works on the Trans-Arunachal Highway has commenced and is satisfactory. While the Tezu airport has already been approved for upgradation by NEC, work on upgradation of 8 Advanced Landing Grounds is likely to commence shortly. Work has already started for the construction of the Institute of Hotel Management at Banderdewa.

8. There had been some delay in the approval of the DPR for a Greenfield airport at Itanagar. During my visit to New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2010, I met and apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the necessity of this approval and he has assured me of all necessary help and support for early clearance of the project. The proposal of Arunachal Scouts has been approved in principle and we will soon see the raising of this important unit. Army officer's deputation to raise the Arunachal Scouts has also started and recruitment of youth to man this force will soon commence.

9. Through our Border Village Illumination Project, we have electrified 523 out of the 546 targetted villages through solar home lighting systems. More than 5,800 households have been benefited through this initiative and it gives me immense happiness to place this fact before Shri Farooq Abdullah, Hon'ble Minister for New and Renewable Energy, who has a personal commitment for promoting use of renewable sources of energy. We are also aiming to make our State buildings like the Raj Bhawan and the upcoming buildings like Assembly and the Secretariat as green and energy efficient buildings.

10. Just 3 days ago, I personally embarked on a train journey from Harmuti to Gogamukh to have an experience of the benefits that train connectivity to the State capital will bring to our citizens. The progress of Harmuti-Itanagar Rail line project in the Arunachal Part is quite satisfactory and as per schedule though the pace of implementation on Assam side needs to be increased somewhat.

11. My Govt, has been working tirelessly to ensure that the fruits of flagship programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, National Rural Health Mission, PMGSY, Total Sanitation Campaign and NREGA etc reach the remotest corner and the poorest beneficiary of the State.

12. The State Govt has till date allotted 34,800 MW worth of hydro-power potential sites to various PSUs and other developers. These hydro-power projects are the future back-bone of the State Economy. I take this opportunity to share with you that the MoU for the 2000 MW Lower Subansari Hydro-power project which was pending since 2001 has been signed by the State Govt. with NHPC in January 2010.

13. Streamlining of PDS was one of the priority areas of the Government and the Govt. continued with its efforts in this field by opening a separate regional office of the FCI for Arunachal Pradesh at Naharlagun. At the same time, in order to improve the delivery mechanism further, the transportation of foodgrains from FCI godowns to the village fair price shops is also being handed over to FCI.

14. A comprehensive Education Reforms Bill to introduce qualitative changes in the primary and higher education sectors in the State is under preparation. Through this bill, the Govt. will set quality benchmarks which will have to be mandatorily followed by all the educational institutions in the State – be it Public or Private. The issue of teacher absenteeism will also be effectively tackled by introducing certain path-breaking provisions in this bill.

15. Arunachal Pradesh has been an oasis of peace in the entire North-Eastern region and the law and order situation last year too remained normal, barring the Districts of Tirap and Changlang. Last year, 51 cadres of various UG organizations surrendered before the State Police and para-military forces. This is perhaps the highest number ever in any single District of the Country. Furthering its commitment towards maintenance of law and order, the State Govt. will also soon raise the 4<sup>th</sup> IRBN Battalion.

Finally, we have succeeded in getting the Central Govt.'s approval for raising the Arunachal Scouts and soon recruitment and creation of the infrastructure will commence. I am told that officers of the Indian Army are being deputed to raise this force.

16. On this festive occasion, let me remind you all of the commitment we made this year on the Republic Day – that of making our State, ‘Clean, Green and Plastic Free’. I am glad to note the various steps being taken by the Government authorities and the civil society in response to my call to make 2010 year of a Clean and Green Arunachal Pradesh.

17. Dear Friends, tourism activities are not only a force multiplier for the economic growth of the State but are also in keeping with our time-honored traditions of respecting and offering our best to our guests. United efforts will be required to make Brand Arunachal, the tourism capital of our country and each one of us has a sacred duty to play our role in this process. A lot of jobs will be generated for the youth by the advent of tourism.

18. I greet and compliment all the State Level Awardees whose commitment for the cause of the State has been recognized by the State Govt. today. They come from diverse backgrounds – from young brave children to progressive farmers to brave jawaans of the police to Govt officers. However, they have all placed duty before self and left for us, examples to emulate.

19. I express my gratitude to the State Government and the District Administration for organizing an event befitting the dignity of the occasion at a very short notice. I also commend the various members of the State Police, school children and the cultural troupes who took part in the celebrations today.

20. As I close, I urge all of you to never lose sight of the responsibility that was placed on our shoulders by the grant of full Statehood Status. This responsibility is a sacred duty and our guiding light as we make collective efforts as ‘Team Arunachal’ to live up to our duties, conscious of the golden future that beckons us, while being firmly rooted in our glorious past.

*Jai Arunachal. Jai Hind*