



MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL J J SINGH,
PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION OF
NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY
AT
ITANAGAR
ON
25th JANUARY 2011

I am very happy to be part of this important celebration and I consider it a matter of pride to be associated with the first National Voters' day programme.

I extend my heartiest greetings to all of you on the Foundation Day of Election Commission, which is being observed as the National Voters' Day. I am confident that this celebration will definitely give impetus to our endeavour to make universal adult franchise a reality by creating awareness regarding our voting rights and importance of effective participation in election process. This in turn will enhance the quality of Indian democracy.

This pro-active initiative of the Election Commission will also definitely instill a renewed sense of citizenship, pride and participation in the minds of the newly enrolled voters and as also the eligible ones.

I congratulate the newly enrolled voters and look forward for their complete participation whenever occasion arises. My appeal to all of you is be an ambassador of the Election Commissioner and create awareness among your friends and relatives. Take upon yourself the responsibility to ensure that every eligible member of your family, area, village or circle is enrolled and also they participate in the elections.

I also congratulate the State Government and the Chief Electoral Officer, officers, the District Election Officers and their teams for ensuring high percentage of enrolment and the hard work they have put in to achieve this Herculean task.

I am very happy to note that election machinery in entire State is trying its best to enroll all the genuine Indian citizens as electors of the State to facilitate them in casting their votes. For this, even for a single voter, a polling station, namely Marambo under 41-Anini (ST) Assembly Constituency was set up in Dibang Valley district, which reflects our sincerity and unflinching commitment in maintaining the spirit of democracy. It has also been observed that the voting percentage in our State is always high in comparison to other regions of the country.

Arunachal Pradesh is a young State in our country. The first Parliamentary election was held in March 1977 for only one seat and the first Assembly election was held in February 1978 when Arunachal Pradesh was a Union Territory.

As you all know, in 1987 Arunachal Pradesh became full-fledged State with 60 Assembly Constituencies and first election for 60 Assembly Constituencies was held in February 1990. From the beginning my Arunachalee people have been enthusiastic in participating in elections.

It has been observed that people of Arunachal Pradesh always participate in all the elections with huge turn out which indicates the strong basis of democracy in the State. Arunachal Pradesh has impressive democratic credentials. I always maintain that with small population like ours, we have 100% enrollment and highest percentage of participation and thereby become a role model for other States.

The Electoral process and adult franchise is the foundation stone of any democracy. The conduct of free and fair elections depends much upon the performance of the three stakeholders, electoral machinery, candidates and the electorate.

Each one must act responsibly. To provide true representation, first, the electoral machinery must be independent and impartial, which it has always been. Secondly, the candidate and political parties must act in a mature, self-disciplined and responsible manner. And thirdly, the electorates should exercise their franchise. They are the most vital entity in electing the people's representatives and hence proper enrollment of the electorates will directly reflect the quality of democracy.

We have to face many challenges in management and purification of electoral rolls but with proactive role of the officials and educated members of the society, this can certainly be achieved.

Friends, you are the people who can ensure that spirit of democracy prevails and this initiative of Election Commission will bear fruit only if each one of us lend whole hearted support to it. Therefore, let us make complete participation of voters a reality.

Today, let us pledge to inculcate sense of participation in the governance in minds of the people. Let us give voice to 'Aam Admi'. It will be our real contribution towards democratic ideals of our constitution.

Before I conclude, I would like to appeal to each one of you to rise to the expectations of the people, their aspirations and hopes for a free and fair election.

Election Commission of India has been one of the strongest pillars of democracy in India and reposing my confidence in the Election Commission, I can say with complete certainty that free & fair elections and complete participation of all voters will be ensured by the Commission.

I once again extend my best wishes to the Commission and all of you in your future endeavour.

Jai Arunachal Jai Hind.