



SPEECH  
OF  
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GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
  
ON THE OCCASION  
OF  
REPUBLIC DAY 2010  
  
AT  
ITANAGAR

## **My dear fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh**

1. On the auspicious occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Republic Day of the Country, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the people of India, each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh and to all of you who have gathered here today to be a part of these sacred and joyous celebrations. I pay gratitude to the thousands of workers, farmers, teachers, doctors and engineers who, through their sweat and toil, are today laying foundations of a strong and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. I also greet the members of our armed forces, para-military forces, our border-guards and our naval and air warriors who remain ever-ready to defend the pride and honor of our motherland.
2. Today, I pay homage to our great leaders, patriots and freedom fighters who made umpteen personal sacrifices to gift their future generations, a sovereign nation. On this day sixty years ago, as India became a republic and the Constitution came into force, we got the authority to conduct our own affairs. It was also the first significant step since Independence in our attempts

towards realizing the vision of a new, vibrant and self-reliant India. However, with great authority comes great responsibility and the onus to imbibe and nurture the values enshrined by our forefathers in our Constitution. Our biggest collective achievement over this period has been our ability to preserve our love for the democratic traditions of the country and take significant steps forward on the road to becoming a mature democracy.

3. Although 60 years is a considerable span in human life, for a nation, it barely marks the milestone where the country steps into its youth. Today, ours is young country where more than 40% of the citizens are less than 25 years of age. Our State, which attained Statehood only about 23 years ago, is an even younger entity taking its first firm and steady steps on the road to development. Amongst you today, I see thousands of cheerful and rejoicing school and college students. The stability of our democracy and the immense potential of our youth power always fill me with the re-assuring thought – that we shall succeed.

4. Last year saw the successful conduct of both the Assembly and Parliamentary Elections in the State. Even in the insurgency affected Districts of Tirap and Changlang where there were apprehensions of disturbances, the Elections were conducted in an incident free manner. I would like to congratulate the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officer and his team of officers and officials for this smooth and peaceful conduct in a free and fair manner. I also appreciate all the people of Arunachal Pradesh who turned out in huge numbers and demonstrated their love for the democratic traditions of the country.
5. The Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu, all cabinet members and all the elected members of the Legislative Assembly have been given the mandate by the people to transform their hopes and vision into reality. They have to give an example as people's leaders. This mandate is a sacred duty and I assure you that my Govt, will leave no stone unturned in the realization of it's noble objective – People First.

6. It will be the commitment of my Government to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquility in the State, to free the State from social injustice, ill-health and inequality and promote education amongst all. It will continue to give priority to eradicating poverty and checking corruption while carrying forward the development agenda of providing maximum employment opportunities to the youth of the State. The Government will lay special emphasis on harnessing the rich hydro-power potential and mineral resources and also go all-out in developing the tourism, agriculture and horticulture potential of the State. Preservation of our pristine forest cover shall continue to be a priority sector. In its endeavor to successfully pursue this development agenda, the Government will continue to be guided by the twin principles of transparency and responsiveness.
7. On this august occasion, I would briefly seek to highlight our achievements of the year gone-by and the vision of the Government for the years to come. The State is going through an exciting, yet challenging phase of development. Over the last one year, the

State has come to occupy a position of eminence and strategic importance on the national mosaic. Never in the past have we had visits from the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and many other ministers and high officials in such a brief period. I thank the Central Government for providing unflinching support to the State Government in all its development initiatives.

8. The pace of implementation of the various projects of the historic package announced by the Prime Minister of India in Jan. 2008 quickened during the year. The process of construction of a modern State-of-the-Art Secretariat and Legislative Assembly has already begun and will be completed within a period of two years. The Ministry of Defence has already started taking over the possession of Advanced Landing Grounds at eight locations from the State Government for their upgradation. I am happy to note that the work on the railway line to the State Capital and the Trans-Arunachal Highway is also progressing smoothly.

9. Dear friends, you have shown your firm commitment to the development of our State by giving a strong thumbs-up signal during the Public Hearing for the Greenfield Airport project at Itanagar. The environmental clearance for the project is likely to be received soon. I am happy to inform you that the project for upgradation of Tezu airport for ATR aircraft operation has also been sanctioned recently by NEC. All these projects are being monitored regularly at the highest level and also through third party monitors and absolute transparency has been maintained by the Government in the implementation of all these projects.
10. Last year, our State Information Commission brought laurels for the entire State by bagging the 1<sup>st</sup> National level RTI Award for the best State Information Commission in the country. This award is a testimonial of the high priority attached by the State Government to transparency in official procedures. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Chief and all the Information Commissioners.

11. Dear Friends, Arunachal Pradesh is an oasis of peace in the entire North-Eastern region. It was heartening to know that the law and order situation in the State remained normal during the year. Appreciation is due to the Home Department and the State Police for providing us safety and security outside and within the four walls of our houses. You will be glad to know that this year, 51 cadres of various UG organizations surrendered in District Tirap, which is perhaps the highest ever in any single District of the country. The Government is actively considering the adoption of a Surrender Policy for the State which will inspire even more misguided boys and girls to give up the cult of the gun and join the mainstream.
12. The Govt is committed towards making qualitative and quantitative improvements in the Primary Education Sector in the State. Vigorous efforts have been made for the streamlining of the Mid-day Meal Program with the result that there has been a considerable fall in the drop-out rate in the State. An amount of Rs. 10 crores has been ear-marked by the Government for purchasing school books from NCERT for subsequent

- free distribution amongst the poor and needy students. The students of the State continued to do well at various levels including winning of the first prize at National Level in the National Science Seminar conducted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
13. Under the flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan Scheme, 774 primary schools, 396 upper primary schools, 160 residential schools and 2658 additional classrooms have been built across the State. In addition, keeping in mind the special focus on girl child, 36 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been established. This year, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan has been launched on the lines of the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan. Yet we must remember that we have a long way to go before catching up with other States.
  14. While the focus of the State Govt, should continue to be primary education, it cannot forsake its obligation of providing quality secondary and tertiary education to its students. A National Institute of Technology (NIT) has been sanctioned in the State and will start functioning with the academic year 2010-11. A giant step has been

- taken by the Department of Higher education in bridging physical distance by commissioning the EDUSAT project for the State by setting up 50 Satellite Interactive Terminals at various locations of the State.
15. Streamlining of PDS was one of the priority areas of the Government and the Government continued with its efforts in this field by opening a separate regional office of the FCI for Arunachal Pradesh at Naharlagun. Besides, two new FCI depots, one each at Anini and Deomali were opened during the current year. This will not only help in reduction in transport costs but also improve the availability of PDS items to the poorest residents of the State by checking the pilferage to Assam.
  16. The cultural heritage of a society is a mirror of it's socio-economic development. While we, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, must allow the winds of all cultures to blow around our dwellings freely, we must refuse to be swept of our feet by any of them. The Departments of Tourism and Art and Culture have taken several meaningful steps towards this by organizing festivals

- like Festival of Aruanchal, Siang River Festival, Pangsau Pass festival etc.
17. Our State is blessed to be drained by atleast eight major river basins. The hydro-power potential of our State is estimated to be about 56,000 MW which is undoubtedly the highest for any State of the country. The State Govt has till date allotted 34,800 MW worth of hydro-power potential sites to various PSUs and other developers. It is heartening to note that over the 35 years from 1971 to 2006, we added only 1 MW per year of installed capacity whereas in the last two years, we have added 27 MW of additional capacity.
  18. My Government realizes that economic development cannot be sustained at the cost of the rights of the local communities. Therefore, the Govt, has recently adopted its own Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy which will address the issue of displacement of local inhabitants in and around the project site.

19. Ours is an agrarian economy and since the output levels from traditional crops have reached a plateau, it is imperative that we focus on diversification of crops. We need to adopt a more commercial approach towards agriculture by increasing the area under cash crops and also through location specific crop production and better marketing support. It is gratifying to note that the area under cash crops this year has increased by 9.87%. However, a majority of our farmer brothers take only one crop every year and let the land lie fallow for the remaining part of the year. The double cropping scheme needs to be vigorously introduced in all the Districts of Arunachal.
20. I strongly believe that due to the unique natural advantages enjoyed by our State, horticulture and allied activities can be a prime mover of the State Economy. Under the Horticulture Technology Mission of the Department of Horticulture, almost 50,000 hectares of area has been brought under horticulture crops and assistance for organic cultivation, honey production, floriculture has been provided to farmers. A camp-office of the Tea Board of India was established in the State

- last year and this will give an impetus to the tea-production activities.
21. We need to exploit the State's natural and competitive advantage in organic farming by setting up Model Organic Farming Demonstration Units. The ultimate aim of the agricultural policy of my Government is not only to raise the income levels of the farmers but also ensure food security by improving productivity, profitability and sustainability.
  22. I am pleased to share with you the efforts being made by the Government in providing self-employment opportunities to the youth. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has now been extended to all the Districts and during this year, 32,735 households in the state were provided employment under the scheme. Under the flagship Government of India – Pradhan Mantri Employment Guarantee Program, the State was able to achieve 100% target. A Skill Development Center has already been established and the proposal for setting up of Entrepreneur Training Institute is at an advanced stage. Further, the daily

minimum wage rate has been increased from Rs. 55 to Rs. 80 this year.

23. I am happy to share with you all that with an aim of providing easy access to credit to rural poor and SHGs, the State Government has released the Micro-Finance Vision – 2011 document. This will help provide the financial services of savings and credit to thousands of rural women entrepreneurs who are outside the formal credit system due to the limited reach of the existing banking facilities in the State.
  
24. The quantum of consumption of electrical power is now accepted as one of the parameters for ascertaining the Human Development Index of the State and I am sanguine that with the initiatives of my Govt, there will be a positive improvement in the Human Development Index of Arunachal Pradesh. Under the Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, the Government has completed electrification works in 238 villages and provided power connections to 975 BPL households.

25. The Border Village Illumination Programme is a prestigious component of the Prime Minister's package which will help in truly taking the fruits of development to the remotest villages of Arunachal. 523 villages have been electrified in 10 Border Districts of the State another 193 villages are likely to be electrified by March 2011.
26. It is an accepted principle of Modern Management that devolution and de-centralization of decision making always produce better and more effective results. With the successful conduct of Panchayat Elections in 2008, we now have elected local bodies at Village, Anchal and District levels. My Govt has already initiated the gradual devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to these Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Panchayat members have been made active members of the District Planning Committee and the District Level Monitoring Committee as a result of which, there has been a visible improvement in the implementation of schemes across various sectors.

27. Rural Road connectivity is a key component for sustainable rural development as it promotes access to economic and social services thereby generating better employment opportunities and increased incomes. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, we have so far connected 438 habitations to the main arteries. Another 513 small villages in remote Border Blocks are being taken up for road connectivity under the Prime Ministers package.
28. The revival process of the ailing APEX Bank initiated by the Chief Minister is on track and a total of 28,263 accounts have been opened with fresh deposits of over Rs. 30.00 crores.
29. With the development road-map of traditional sectors already in place, the State has also started taking its first steps in the field of Information and Technology. The implementation of State Wide Area Network (SWAN) and Citizen Service Centers at 200 locations is likely to be completed soon. A State Center for excellence in IT has been established and the State has become the first in the country to upload the

progress of various development schemes on its website. Two districts of the State telecast the poll proceedings from various polling stations live over the internet which was appreciated by the Election Commission of India which has asked other States also to adopt the same technology.

30. Today, I want to make a special appeal to all the citizens of Arunachal Pradesh and to the school students in particular to pledge to make the year 2010, the year of a 'Clean, Green and plastic free Arunachal'. I am happy to note that the District Administration Capital Complex has launched the Capital Facelift campaign in a big way. It is now incumbent upon all the citizens to strengthen the hands of the Government towards this greater objective. This year, several of our Gram Panchayats received the Nirmal Gram Puraskar for setting the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness. When our villages can do it, why not the capital city? When our future generations remember us, it must only be for the right reasons. We have

- inherited the earth from our parents. Let us not borrow it from our children and leave nothing to them.
31. Today, I also want to give a special call to all of you to do your utmost for making Arunachal, the tourism capital of the country. At times, I am pained to see the beautiful hills, majestic rivers and the lush green valleys of Arunachal littered with waste and refuse. Tourism activities will not only be a force multiplier for economic growth of Arunachal Pradesh but are also in consonance with our time-honored traditions of respecting and offering our best to our guests so that they continue to remember us fondly. The creation of Brand 'Arunachal' would be the work of a generation rather than of any individual, and we, each one of us, have to add our brick to the edifice.
  32. With dedication and single-minded commitment, we can usher in an era of sustainable development and prosperity for our State. Let us pledge today to use our united strength, determination and sense of unity and purpose to greet the great future that beckons our

State. Let us therefore commit ourselves to making the efforts that will secure our future through individual and collective efforts as part of '**Team Arunachal**'.

33. Before concluding, I commend the State Police, the CRPF, ITBP, NCC Scouts and Guides as well as students for their high standard of drill and smart turnout in this parade. The members of the various cultural troupes and the school children also deserve our special appreciation for their enthusiastic participation in this important function. I also express my deep gratitude to all the officers, officials and staff of the State Government for rendering their dedicated services for the development of the State.
34. As the tri-colour unfurls on this sacred occasion, let each one of us commit ourselves to live up to our duties and responsibilities, conscious that we are a part of a great nation with a great destiny.
35. Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.