



SPEECH

OF

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

HIS EXCELLENCY

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION OF

**INAUGURATION OF DAILY HELICOPTER
SERVICE FROM TAWANG TO GUWAHATI**

AT

TAWANG

ON

JUNE 29, 2008

My dear Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu, the Parliamentary Secretary and MLA of this area Shri Tsewang Dhondup, Rev. T. G. Rimpoche, CVO of Pawan Hans Shri B.K. Singh, senior officials of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Public leaders and dear brothers and sisters.

Indeed today is the golden day in the developmental history of Arunachal Pradesh. I am feeling proud that I am not only a witness but an integral part of this process of writing of the developmental history of this frontier state. Today, we are launching the daily helicopter service from Tawang to Guwahati. It is a proud moment for each and every Arunachalee that one of the promises given by our Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st January at Itanagar has been fulfilled. I am sure the citizens of Tawang must be thrilled to know that it is the first project in the Prime Minister's package which has been successfully completed. I congratulate the Chief Minister and his team of trusted leaders and dedicated officers for this magnificent achievement in less than five months of the announcement of the package.

Tawang is already a great attraction for the domestic and international tourist. And with this daily helicopter service, the place will find a prominent place in the world tourism map. Now within few hours a tourist can reach to Tawang all the way from New Delhi! This was really an unimaginable thing few months ago, but thanks to the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister that we have such a wonderful service today.

'Tourism' has always been a very dear subject to mine. In fact immediately after my taking over as Governor of this beautiful State, I have initiated many projects in this sector. I have personally met the Union Minister for Tourism Ms Ambika Soni and discussed at length about development of Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh. We have also planned for an ambitious Trans-Arunachal-Himalayan car rally which will witness an international participation and also white water rafting in Siang valley in the month of November. This is going to be another turning point for the Tourism industry in the State. I consider that tourism is the industry which has got tremendous potential of employment generation and wealth creation. However, I want to promote tourism not for the luxurious holidays for the outside people but for the sustained income generation and prosperity of the local indigenous Arunachalee! And hence, I always advocate a gradual but time-bound promotion of Tourism. I believe that Arunachal should adopt the Bhutan model of high-end tourism. I have always said that we should have the I.L.P. regime; however we can make it more tourists friendly!

There is no second opinion about the immense tourism potential of this state. Eco tourism, Cultural tourism, Adventure tourism, Religious tourism or any other form of Tourism, our state is having the potential to be the leader. Look at the some of the small south-Asian countries or some of our own states such as Kerala, Goa which are prospering at a promising speed only because of the flourishing Tourism industry. The projects like Trans-Arunachal Highway, Airports, Railway lines etc. will take many years to execute, but the projects like Tourism promotion have short gestation periods and results are tangible.

I am happy that the Chief Minister Shri Khandu himself is holding the Tourism portfolio and he is assisted by a competent Tourism Secretary Ms Bandana Deori, who is always bubbling with new ideas. At this juncture we require a very bold and equally innovative Tourism policy. We do need a massive dose of Tourism related infrastructure, but I am afraid that we should not create mundane cement concrete structures in the name of Tourism infrastructure. I strongly advocate the eco-friendly structures made out of the locally available material but of-course having all the state of the art modern amenities and maintained clean and hygienic. I believe the name of the department has now been changed to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality. This 'hospitality' is an integral component of the Tourism industry and we the people of the North eastern region in general and Arunachal Pradesh In particular are known for their generous hospitality. Now we need to convert this into our USP (Unique Selling Proposition). Right from the senior functionaries dealing with the subject to the taxi drivers, hotel bearers etc are required to be sensitized on this subject.

The Pawan Hans will be operating this daily helicopter service from Guwahati to Tawang. I must tell the crew and the other members of Pawan Hans that this is not a routine assignment for you... I remember ... you are now a part of a giant leap ... and hence you will have to work with sincerity and devotion. In fact, the very success of the project depends on your performance. I am not hesitating to say that your performance in our routine Itanagar-Guwahati sector is far from satisfactory and I have already written to your CMD on this issue. He is coming to meet me very shortly. Any way, I am sure that this sector will be treated as a pride by the Pawan Hans.

I take this opportunity to tell each and every citizen of this state that the government is absolutely committed for the all round development of this frontier state. The 10000 Cr plus PM's package is being monitored very meticulously by the Prime Minister's Office. Recently, I met Hon'ble Prime

Minister and had a threadbare discussion for almost half an hour. He has expressed his full satisfaction about pace of the implementation of various projects under the package. This is the right opportunity for us to convert the Prime Minister's dream of developed Arunachal Pradesh into a reality.

Once again, I congratulate the Chief Minister and his team for the great success and assure my whole hearted support in each of the developmental projects!

Jai-Hind ! Jai-Arunachal!!