



SPEECH
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR
of
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION
OF
REPUBLIC DAY, 2014
AT
ITANAGAR

My dear citizens of Arunachal Pradesh,

On this sacred and joyous occasion of the 65th Republic Day of our Nation, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh and to all my countrymen in the country.

I extend our warm felicitations to the members of our armed forces, para-military forces and Police with whose efforts we are secure and enabled in the march towards development. I also greet the numerous individuals who are working relentlessly in various fields for strengthening the foundations of our democracy.

Today, let us remember and pay our tributes with profound veneration to our founding fathers who had brought forth freedom to this Nation, and gave us the Constitution which guarantees, amongst others, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. We salute the drafting committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which conceived and drafted our Constitution.

Our Constitution is primarily shaped and moulded for the common man. The essential purpose of the Constitution is to ensure freedom of the individual and dignity of man. It ensures that India remains a secular State. People belonging to different religious denominations who are all part of our vibrant pluralistic society, are guaranteed the freedom to profess their own beliefs, religious practices. These rights under the Constitution are available even to those individuals who are not citizens of India.

The Constitution is not merely a political document to provide the framework and institutions for democratic governance, i.e. the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, it also prescribes guidelines for the economic and social emancipation of society and particularly, the poor, the underprivileged and the downtrodden. It has given to us the framework for a strong Nation, a federation that ensure harmony between the Union and States and between the various institutions of our democratic polity.

Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy are enshrined in the Constitution of India. The Fundamental Rights provide for freedom of expression, equality of opportunity, equality before law and abolition of untouchability and remedies to ensure the enforcement of rights. The Directive Principles enshrine the broad guiding principles for securing fair distribution of wealth and better living conditions.

Effective representation is provided to the socially disadvantaged groups in legislatures, education, employment and steps are underway to ensure a stronger representation for women.

This anniversary provides an opportunity for every citizen of India to renew the pledge to work for the well-being of our people, for peace and harmony in our society and indeed, the world.

We must re-dedicate ourselves on this day to the peaceful, realization of the dream that had inspired the Father of our Nation and the other captains and soldiers of our freedom struggle, the dream of establishing a classless, co-operative, free and egalitarian society. We must remember that this is more a day of dedication than of rejoicing - dedication to the glorious task of giving the peasants, workers, the toilers and all citizens a life of happiness and prosperity for all.

Over the last 64 years, our Nation has faced numerous challenges, both from within and without. Yet, with each such challenge, it has emerged as a stronger and a much more mature nation. Our cherished values of being a 'sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic', so deeply enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution should continue to be our guiding principles in future so that we continue to get the strength, wisdom, ability and blessings to face any challenges for all times to come.

I am proud of the patriotic people of Arunachal Pradesh, who have demonstrated their indomitable Arunachali spirit, immense moral courage and fortitude in standing resolute against all odds and are actively working tirelessly for maintaining peace and harmony, and at the same time, vigorously pursuing the developmental activities in the State.

Priority of my Government has been on strengthening our people politically, socially and economically. Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed a paradigm shift in the economic development and the State is on the threshold of development under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Shri Nabam Tuki, Hon'ble Chief Minister. The State Government has embarked upon the development initiative in four core areas viz, natural resource development, human resource development, infrastructure development and institutional development for a sustainable and balanced growth with equity to achieve the long cherished goal of 'Inclusive Growth' during 12th Five Year Plan and beyond with a commitment for a 'People First' and 'Development through Culture of governance'.

In recent years, we have provided a new impetus to our Panchayati Raj Institutions. This has fostered the participation of the people at the grassroot levels in our democratic processes in a very tangible and effective manner. Overwhelming participation of our people in Panchayati Raj and first election for two municipalities is indication of peaceful and healthy democracy in our society. Huge turn out on the voting day indicates how, we Arunachalis, value and respect the democratic norms embedded in our Constitution. With the strengthening of Panchayati Raj, the grassroot people of rural and urban areas can address the needs and aspirations of their fellow citizens better.

Age-old democratic institution in the tribal community is our strength and we need to reinforce it. The State Government has taken some concrete steps to further strengthen the grassroots governance in the State. Panchayati Raj Institutions have been empowered to supervise and monitor the implementation of programmes coming under their respective jurisdictions. Moreover, devolution of financial powers and other functions to functionaries of the Panchayati Raj Institutions is under examination and appropriate action will be taken very soon. To strengthen manpower of Panchayati Raj Institutions, technical staff are being sanctioned under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan scheme.

Strengthening municipal governance under 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA) 1992, the Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Act 2007 was implemented in the State for decentralization of power and involving people's participation in the planning and development process in the urban areas. Pasighat and Itanagar municipalities were constituted in the first phase and process is on for constituting the same for all the urban centres of Arunachal Pradesh.

Education is one of the priority sectors of my Government. To promote excellence in quality education and competitive spirit in government schools, awards for best school, best principal, best male and female teachers have been introduced under Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in quality education. To encourage the students to pursue further studies with dedication and excellence, Chief Minister's Talent Award scheme is launched.

With launching of Saakshar Bharat Mission in 2012-2013, female literacy rate has increased by 7%, while male literacy has increased by 4.11%. Overall literacy rate of the State has increased by 5.99%, which stands today at 66.95%.

Out of 232 State Government schools functioning in the state, 92 Schools have been strengthened and provided required infrastructure under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. Twenty two Upper Primary Schools are up-graded to Secondary Schools and will be made functional during 2014-2015. Construction of buildings and recruitment of teachers is completed. School Mapping exercise has been completed and up-dated manually, through distance matrix method. Two lakh seventy six thousand three hundred and ninety students in 3,535 schools are covered under Mid-day meal programme in the State.

To ensure the attendance of teachers and students in the remote schools, biometric attendance with SMS alert for school teachers for 500 schools in Arunachal Pradesh is also proposed.

In Higher education, three more new Government Colleges at Doimukh, Daporijo and Nyapin have been established in addition to nine already existing. Six model degree colleges at Seppa, Palin, Daporijo, Basar, Geku and Roing have been approved and three more model colleges at Jairampur, Charju and Longding are proposed. Fund provision of Rupees One Crore each for construction of boys and girls hostels in the two colleges of Tirap and Changlang Districts has been made.

In order to achieve the goals of equity, access and excellence, implementation of Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan in Arunachal Pradesh is under process to facilitate funding and support to the State higher education system.

Girl education has been our area of special focus. To promote quality education amongst them, State government has launched a number of new incentive schemes including Vidya, under which an initial fixed deposit of ` 5,000 is made for girl students, who have passed Class V for continuing school education. Five hostels have been constructed in Mechuka, Sagalee, Tawang, Dumporijo and Palin. Thirty-five more girls' hostels would be taken up in phased manner.

As part of Government of India's programme to bring tribal areas at par with the rest of the country under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 11 projects were implemented in the State during 2013-2014. Construction of fifteen on-going Girls' Hostel will be completed in the current financial year, while 630 Scheduled Tribe students are being given Post-Matric Scholarship. Further fourteen dedicated Non-Governmental Organisations are being provided Grant-in-Aid.

Health care is one of the highest priority areas of my Government. It is making all efforts to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all. Four more hospitals are coming up in Mengio, Palin, Pistana, Parang along with integrated AYUSH Hospital at Pasighat and speciality clinic Ayurveda Homoeopathy in Community Health Centre, Kimin. The State Cabinet has approved establishment of District Hospital at Longding with specialist doctors for children, medicine, gynaecology, surgery and anaesthesia. I am confident that all stakeholders, including the private sector will contribute to this endeavour.

Empowerment of the weakest section of society is also the priority of my Government. Under social assistance programme, 29,992 persons from 60 to 79 years age group and 1,217 persons from 80 years and above are provided financial assistance. One thousand eight hundred and forty-nine widows in 40 to 59 years age group and 1,802 persons with disability in age group of 18 to 59 years were also given financial assistance. Five hundred beneficiaries were provided one time grant of ` 20,000 under National Family Benefits scheme.

Under Annapurna scheme, 4,761 beneficiaries in the age group of 65 years and above, who are not getting benefit under National Old Age Pension Scheme, were given 10 kg of rice (per month) free of cost. Thirty eight thousand families are covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki has formally launched the National Food Security Ordinance 2013 on 20th August last year. As earmarked by the Government of India, 66.31% of Rural and 51.55% under priority household of urban population of Arunachal Pradesh will be covered. This is the first step towards making 'Right to Food', a fundamental right for our citizen.

Under National flagship programme Indira Awas Yojana, 2,371 new houses have been constructed and 7,377 houses will be constructed very soon. 3,111 houses under special package for Puroiks of East Kameng, Papum Pare and Kurung Kumey Districts have already been sanctioned.

In order to empower our people economically, my Government has put in tremendous effort to generate more employment, especially for the youth. The youth play a very important role in shaping the future of the state. We have huge number of talented youth, who are sincere, hardworking and can contribute towards the society. Imparting adequate skill, capacity building and providing employment to youth is a priority of my Government.

In this direction Job Mela cum Skill Development Interview Rally was organised from 30th August to 1st September last year, where 33 Vocational Training Providers participated. Fourteen thousand candidates registered in the Job Mela of which 9,012 were selected. Today 2,437 candidates are undergoing training at various VTPs and training for 6,992 is in the pipeline. Memoranda of Agreement are signed with 17 VTPs with assured job guarantee. I am hopeful that all selected youth in these training centres will get gainful employment. This initiative will continue to bring in more and more youth, especially from the remote areas.

You will be happy to know that Rajiv Gandhi University has introduced some very important skill based diploma and certificate programmes and Post graduate courses. Today in the age of computer graphics where there is vast scope for employment, RGU has started certificate course in Graphics and Animation. Master of Computer Application and Post graduate Diploma in Banking and Insurance are also introduced.

In addition to five polytechnics in the pipeline for starting in the coming acadmic session at Hawaii, Namsai, Roing, Pasighat, Dirang, Laying and Tajang, my Government has issued notification for setting up of three more polytechnics at Khonsa, Miao and Chayangtajo.

To generate employment opportunities among the people through self-employment ventures in rural and urban areas, the credit linked subsidy scheme called Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme was taken up and 380 youth benefited in the last financial year. Target for this financial year is to provide benefits to another 1,773 youth.

State level Entrepreneurship Development Institute is coming up at Jote to impart training for skill development of 1st generation entrepreneurs. You will be happy to learn that establishment of industrial corridor all along the foothill adjoining the State of Assam from Kanubari in Longding District to Balemou in West Kameng District has been proposed in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Chief Minister's Livelihood Mission School was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Nabam Tuki at Nampong in Changlang district as a pilot project of the State. The objective of the Mission is to promote and produce skilled youth of age group 18 to 25 years, specially for school dropouts to earn a decent livelihood. It is heartening to see that most of the youth from first batch after being trained in agri-horticulture farming and animal husbandry have set up their ventures to feed the local markets having huge demands for vegetables and poultry products.

Arunachal Pradesh has tremendous potential for development of Agriculture and allied sectors. The State has diverse Agro-Climatic Zones, which can support cultivation of tropical, sub-tropical, temperate fruits and vegetables. Some Horticultural produces of State are Mandarin Orange, Pineapple, Kiwi, Apple, vegetables, and large Cardamom.

There is a need for introducing double cropping system in the State on a large scale. In this direction comprehensive package for Agriculture and Horticulture development is envisaged which has components of community fencing and assured irrigation. State Government has conducted its first Arunachal Krishi Expo and Kisan Mela in 2012 and to promote fisheries sector in the State, Meen Mahotsav was conducted recently.

You will be pleased to know that there has been approximately 9.2% growth in overall crop production in the State in agriculture sector against targeted annual growth of 6.5% during 2012-2013. It is a result of launching of new schemes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Rice), Chief Minister's Agriculture Mechanization Programme and several Centrally sponsored schemes in the State.

New innovative schemes such as Chief Minister's Agriculture Mechanization Programme was launched during 2013-2014 with a target of benefitting 1,600 farmers and generating 1,03,000 man-days of employment. During 2012-2013, 1,700 farmers were benefited and 100 tractors, 300 power tillers, 600 paddy dehusking machines and 700 water pumping sets were provided at subsidised rate. Along with it, Kisan credit cards at 0% interest were provided to 381 farmers.

You all know Arunachal Pradesh is an agrarian State. To strengthen this sector and to act as major contributor to State's economic prosperity, new schemes, in Apiculture, Arunachal Krishi Karman Award and Central sector Scheme on Oil Palm Cultivation are being implemented to create rural employment and competitive mindset amongst the farmers for higher production.

Emphasizing this sector, a College of Agriculture under Central Agriculture University, Imphal has been established at Pasighat. Union Minister for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Shri Sharad Pawar has laid the foundation stone of the new College on 26th November 2013.

Focus is on tea and rubber cultivations to arrest jhum cultivation and preserve the green environment at the same time provide livelihood to the people. Tea Research Association's Arunachal Advisory Centre, Itanagar has been set up.

Infrastructure development acts as a pivot for sustained economic development. Physical infrastructure covering transportation, power and communication through its linkages facilitates growth. Social infrastructure including water supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, education and health has a direct impact on the quality of life. The infrastructure is largely a reflection of the performance of our economy.

In order to create infrastructure and provide basic amenities to the urban poor, 18 projects were taken up under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission of which 13 projects have been completed and remaining five will be completed by March 2014. Construction of 576 rental housing at Itanagar under Rajiv Awas Yojana is being sanctioned and for another 384 dwelling units at Naharlagun are under process. Accommodation project for senior government officials is also initiated.

Many important schemes for infrastructure such as administrative office buildings, circuit houses and other buildings are completed and many more are coming up. State Legislative Assembly building and Arunachal Pradesh Civil Secretariat building will be completed within this year. Construction of Mini Secretariat in Districts is under progress and will be completed by 2015.

To provide drinking water, four major water supply projects have been completed at Itanagar, Sille, Likabali and Hawaii benefitting a population of 2,13,685. Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) 11,647 Individual Household toilets for BPL families and 633 APL families along with 81 sanitation complex and 108 Anganwadi toilets will be constructed in the current financial year. In the current financial year, under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, 285 habitations will be covered and 382 schools will be provided water supply.

Road connectivity is a key component of development as it gives fillip to economic and social growth and thereby generating income and productive employment opportunity. Roads are required for speedy development as they are one of the important segments for overall socio-economic development. Huge natural resources of the State still remain untapped in the absence of road communication. In fact good road network is one of the yardsticks for measuring development.

To address this under Prime Minister's economic package, Trans Arunachal Highway project, a road length of 1559 km from Tawang to Kanubari is at various stages of development. In addition, 847 km of road projects connecting district headquarters are in progress. These roads will definitely facilitate economic growth of the State and provide quality transportation. Ten roads comprising of 185.58 km length have been completed connecting 10 habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during the year 2013-14.

My Government has started a new scheme of construction of cement concrete roads in all District Headquarters. Work in some of District Headquarters has already been started.

Much awaited rail project of Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway link to connect the State Capital is nearing completion. The trial runs are on and the first railway engine entered the Land of Rising Sun a few days back. I am sure the first passenger train will also be flagged off within a month or two.

Airport Authority of India has already started the work of Tezu Airport. It is likely to be completed by end of this year making it fully operational and facilitate operation of fixed wing aircraft. Ministry of Defence has already started infrastructure development of the Advance Landing Grounds at Tuting, Mechuka, Ziro, Walong, Aalo and Pasighat. These projects are likely to be completed by March 2015 and some more are in the pipeline. Once these ALGs are made fully functional, it will give major boost to tourism, horticulture and agriculture sectors as also enhance level of connectivity to our remote areas.

Tourism is one of the major engines for economic growth of our State. It not only plays a vital role in the economic development of a country, but brings the world closer. It promotes better understanding of diversity, appreciation for nature and need for its preservation. In this direction International Tourism Mart was organised at Tawang in October 2013, where representatives from more than 68 delegates representing 23 countries participated. To bring in more tourist places on the map of the State, tourist travel circuits are increased from 7 to 11. Mukhyamantri Paryatan Vikas Yojana is launched to provide subsidised tourist cab to unemployed persons.

Efforts of the State Government are showing result as Arunachal Pradesh received the prestigious awards in tourism sector. It has received Best State Award in 'Clean India Campaign 2013' and special prize for innovative use of Information and Technology for promotion of Tourism in 2013.

I always strongly feel that development should not disturb the ecological balance. Out of the total land area of 83,743 Sq km, the State has 82% of its total geographical area under forest cover. Our State is known for its treasured flora and fauna. Our tribal communities directly depend on the forest for socio-economic activities, to maintain the ecological balance and play major role in preserving our endangered flora and fauna, which include 630 bird and 241 mammal species. In order to save them from extinction, we have 11 wildlife sanctuaries, two national parks, one Biosphere Reserve, two Tiger Reserves and four Elephant Reserves.

Development and environmental preservation must be balanced. I would like to appeal to all my beloved people of Arunachal Pradesh to safeguard our nature's bounty. With flourishing tourism, the green and pristine environment can bring lots of economic development for generations to come. If harnessed properly, it will be the main sources of revenue for us.

Friends, I am happy to note that the overall law and order situation in the State has been peaceful and remained under control. Spill over cases in disturbed areas of the State saw 13 encounters with underground elements in which 10 UG elements were killed, 87 other arrested and large cache of arms and ammunitions were seized. We lost one brave security personnel in the operations.

Special emphasis has been laid on women safety and investigation of offences against women. A women police station has been started at Itanagar and for the first time 20 women sub-inspectors and 180 women constables were recruited. Such steps will definitely facilitate in addressing crime against women. Central Government has sanctioned 805 numbers of Home guards and State Cabinet has given nod for enrolment of Home guards.

Fifteen new Police Stations in Capital Complex and Tirap, Changlang and Longding Districts have been notified. In the capital complex, Police Stations at Nirjuli, Papu Hill, Niti Vihar and Chimpu have been sanctioned. Government has approved initiation of Police Control Room mobile vans in the Capital Complex.

My Government has already initiated process for separation of Judiciary from Executive in the State in a phased manner. In this direction, two courts of District and Sessions Judge at Yupia and Tezu, three courts of Additional District and Sessions Judge at Bomdila, Basar and Pasighat and five courts of Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge at Itanagar, Aalo, Ziro, Seppa and Roing are established. In addition to it, five courts of Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge have been established at Naharlagun, Khonsa, Tawang, Yingkiong and Daporijo. Notification for transfer of all pending civil and criminal cases from the Deputy Commissioners to these courts has been issued and the courts have started functioning.

For better policing, Government has sanctioned Range Offices at Pasighat and Namsai. Inspector General of Police Central Range Office, Pasighat has already started functioning.

Our State has a long international border with 3 different countries, i.e. China 1100 km, Myanmar 440 km and 160 km with Bhutan. It also puts on us the need of developing the border areas and the State Government has laid special emphasis on this. Connecting 22 un-connected Administrative Centres, providing drinking water facilities, construction of Porter Tracks, Log Bridges and Foot Suspension Bridges for locals and security forces are top priority area of my Government.

The State Government is implementing 20 micro, mini and small hydel projects with an installed capacity of 37.29 Megawatts to provide electricity to 453 villages under illumination of border villages.

The State of Arunachal Pradesh has the highest hydro power potential in the country, which has been assessed to be approximately 58,833 Megawatts. One hundred and fifty-seven projects with total installed capacity of 46,456 Megawatts have been allotted to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and also through Joint Ventures. At present 3 projects are under execution, i.e. Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric project under National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and Kameng Hydroelectric project under North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, both to be commissioned by 2017. Pare Hydroelectric project also under North Eastern Electric Power Corporation is targeted to be commissioned next year.

Harnessing alternate sources of energy, such as solar, wind, water and biomass has also been taken up by the State Government. Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants at Seijusa and Diyun, wind-solar hybrid system at Bilu in West Siang district, Solar water heating system in Ramakrishna Sarada Mission School, Khonsa have been set up.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, 91% of 1859 un-electrified villages were electrified, 82% of 36465 BPL Households were provided power connections and 13 new sub-stations were installed.

Eighteen old hydel stations have been taken up under renovation and modernization programme and 31 projects with installed capacity of 17.35 Megawatt have been proposed for 2014-2015.

Apart from what I have mentioned earlier my Government has also launched some other flagship programmes as Chief Minister's programmes. They include:

Chief Minister's Disability Pension Scheme : It was introduced during 2011-12 to assist the disabled persons by giving pension and is 100% State funded programme. Under this scheme, people suffering from 100% visual disability, or 100% locomotor disability are provided pension at the rate of ` 500 per month, which has been enhanced to ` 1,000 per month from current financial year. During last three financial years, a total of 922 persons covering 18 districts have benefited from this programme.

Chief Minister's Grants Loin Loom Scheme : Main objectives of the scheme are to help 6424 Nos of selected genuine handloom weavers, creation of direct and indirect employment to 6424 weavers, production of finest quality of traditional as well as modified handloom fabric/dresses, provision of 5.5 Kg of free yarn etc.

Free Sanitary Napkins for girl students studying in Government schools from Classes VI to XII for better hygiene for girl students and for removing the barrier for girls to attend the schools regularly. Approximately 82,419 girl students will be covered under this programme.

Chief Minister's Mission Mode Project on plantation of Tea and Rubber crops : Under this programme an amount of ` 500 lakh for tea growers and ` 1000 lakh for rubber growers has been earmarked during 2013-14.

Chief Minister's Universal Health Insurance Scheme : The benefit of insurance to be extended to two lakh families of the State for attaining the objective of 'Good Health for All'. This scheme will endeavour to have a deeper and wider coverage than Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and Arogyanidhi schemes of Government of India.

Chief Minister's Trophy of Football and Volleyball : This programme has been launched to promote Football and Volleyball games at block, district and State level under both man and woman category.

Arunachal Pradesh is a cultural mosaic of different tribes. In order to promote the rich heritage and culture of Arunachal Pradesh, special package is provided for celebration of major festival of tribes of the State. In addition to it State Government has launched celebration of District Art and Culture week in all the districts. First ever festival of devotional music was organised in the State. As a token of encouragement, Government provided financial assistance of ` 10 lakh to outstanding artiste of the State.

Arunachal Pradesh is also a treasure of different indigenous faiths and practices. Apart from the people of different religions and faith living in the State, it is home to 26 tribes and more than 106 sub-tribes, hence is truly a Mini India. Celebrations of festivals by different tribes provide opportunity for better understanding of different faiths of the State and to motivate all, for honest and positive engagement between people from different faiths and belief. It will also reinforce our distinctive Indian cultural characteristic of 'Unity in Diversity' and the most secular State in a true sense. We need to strengthen this homogenous secular spirit.

The year 2013 was the year of our sportspersons. Sportspersons from Sangey Lhaden Sports Academy, Chimpu, including Miss Maselo Mihi and Miss Sorang Yumi, Martial artist Shri Nobin Jomoh, weightlifter Shri Jimjang Deru have given excellent performance in the national and international competitions. Mountaineer Mrs. Anshu Jamsenpa created history on 18th May 2013 by becoming the first woman to climb Mount Everest thrice.

In order to motivate the sportspersons and hone their talents, my Government gave away cash awards and certificates to thirty-nine sportspersons. To encourage budding talents, seventeen sports facilities like indoor and outdoor stadia are coming up in different parts of the State. I am confident that our boys and girls will continue their excellent performance at all levels of sports and games competitions. I hope that our sportsmen and women will bring laurels to the State by winning medals in Olympic Games.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to advise the youth, which is our future on this very important occasion. First, discipline yourself. Discipline leads to respect for each other, which in turn creates peace and harmony amongst each other and in the society. Discipline since early life helps to grow as a responsible and responsive citizen. You should continue to maintain utmost discipline. That will not only help in inculcating a quest for knowledge, a spirit of tolerance, a positive mind and respect for fellow human beings, but also help in bringing out the best in you.

Secondly, quest for knowledge, you have to be inquisitive and curious only then you can grow. There was a time, when India was noted all over the world as a glorious centre of education and culture. The educational and cultural centres of Nalanda, Taxila and Prayag attracted students from places, as far as Egypt, Greece, China, Ceylon and Indonesia. It was an ideal system of education, which not only imparted education, but also infused in them virtue of discipline, spiritual bent and other values of life imbibe into the minds of the pupils. But now when we look at the present state of affairs in our country, the situation is challenging to say the least.

Thirdly, excellence is the key. In today's world, mediocrity has no value. Strive to be excellent and best to be in whatever field you choose. I always maintain that an excellent carpenter is better than an average engineer. Also, knowledge has no boundaries and to achieve it, one has to rise above narrow regional/local confines.

Fourthly, have a purpose in life. One's purpose in life has an overriding influence upon what he or she does with his time, energy and resources. It can also have a profound effect upon how he or she relates to other people. Without this purpose, life has no compass and meaning. Earlier the identification of the purpose, easier it becomes to achieve in the life. There cannot be a uniform purpose in one's life, it can be anything, someone's purpose can be to be the best teacher, the best civil servant, the best citizen, a best doctor anything but, to have a purpose in life is most important.

Fifthly, don't be trapped by dogma, which is living your life on other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinion drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Everything else is secondary.

Be innovative. Innovation is not about doing different things, but its doing the things differently. It is about solving our problem with simple technologically feasible and acceptable creative solution. Next logical step of innovation is entrepreneurship. Be the job creator and not job seeker. Most of energetic youth look for only government jobs. We should get rid of this colonial mind set and become a job creator. Look beyond the Government jobs perspective and look at entrepreneurship as a tool of self-empowerment. As an entrepreneur you can hold your own destiny. Entrepreneurs focus on an opportunity, where others see nothing. You must become entrepreneurs, which is essential for progress of our nation. I hope that our youth will maintain this spirit.

I am pained by the disturbing fact that some parts of this beautiful land have problems related to drugs, including illicit cultivation, trafficking and irresponsible use of opium by young rural population. Acknowledging this fact we must first accept the problem and its gravity and start looking for solutions at the earliest to deal with it. Activities of all agencies should be synchronized, understanding the life cycle, geo-climatic, socio-economic realities of the region. As a preventive aspect to the opium life cycle, some alternative cash crops like large cardamom cultivation and other Horticulture crops etc. are being provided to the opium cultivating farmers, who are willing to abandon the practice of opium cultivation. A regular and intensive awareness campaign in all the sensitive parts of the region is to be undertaken pro-actively with active participation and contribution of civil society, NGOs, grass root workers and political leaders. Education about drug addiction is to be included as a core component of the curriculum in schools.

In this direction, North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP)-III was officially launched jointly by the Chief Minister and Minister, Development of North Eastern Region at Changlang for the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding. The Project has a financial outlay of ` 540 crore in phase-III from 2014-2020 and includes the three districts of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Manipur. Major activities under the project include capacity building of communities and participating agents, economic and livelihood activities, extension and technology transfer, credit, social sector activities, village roads and rural electrification, community based bio-diversity conservation, natural resource management and communication, convergence with ongoing government schemes and marketing support.

My dear Arunachalees, as its commitment to the people, the State Government has given its best in every field of development for the well-being of everyone of you. Having been associated with the State for long, I know that we have come a long way and the State Government deserves our compliments. The Government and the State can further forge ahead, if each one of us displays a befitting sense of responsibility. On this red-lettered day, we commit ourselves towards a happier and healthier society.

In achieving all this, the elders have a big responsibility. I urge the members of civil society, public leaders, teachers and tribal heads to take this on as a challenge. We the elders owe it to our generation next.

As I conclude, I express my deep gratitude to all the officers and officials of the State Government, the Central Government, military and para-military forces and other organizations working in the State in a spirit of dedicated and selfless service. I also commend the public representatives, our Panchayati Raj representatives, Gaon Burahs, youth, students, NGOs, friends from the media and all the people of Arunachal Pradesh for their role in promoting development in the State.

The true essence of practicing mature democracy, as enunciated by the Hon'ble President of India, is by way of discussion, debate and dissension and not by 'disruption.' I, not only as the Governor or the first citizen, but more as your 'Gaon Burah' as I would like to call myself, urge the youth in particular and their mentors to keep this in mind and ensure that energy of the youth is not diverted towards disruption, as also the social evil of corruption and criminal activities like extortion have to be fully eradicated.

I congratulate all the participants of today's Republic Day Parade, the State Police, CRPF, ITBP and students from various schools for demonstrating a very high standard of drill during the parade. I hope that in the same spirit, the members of different cultural troupes and school children will put up a beautiful and vibrant cultural show. My appreciation is due to each one of them.

Once again, I convey my best wishes and greetings to all of you.

Jai Hind.