



ADDRESS

BY

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OF

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ITANAGAR

Hon'ble Mr Speaker and Members.

At the outset, I convey my heartiest greetings to all the esteemed members of this August House for a very successful and fulfilling New Year 2015. As we are all seated here today in the first session of the year, **let us all renew our pledge to dedicate ourselves in the service to our beloved State.**

Let us start this year's first session with a clear vision, new strength and renewed commitments towards taking Arunachal Pradesh to new heights of development and prosperity.

In retrospect, in the year gone by, I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction for all the steps of incremental advances that my government has taken for the welfare of one and all in the State.

I am reminded of a quotation by American writer and biographer Walter Issacson, I quote, '**Progress comes not only in great leaps, but also from Hundreds of small steps**'. Unquote

My newly elected Government in its first cabinet meeting came out with a cabinet resolution showing the intent and commitment to the service and welfare of the State and its people. Among others, the resolution to accord topmost priority to the very crucial sectors of Health and education was a very bold initiative. I would particularly make mention of the Chief Minister's Universal Health Insurance Scheme, which ensures every family Rs 2.00 Lakhs of cashless treatment per annum in any of the more than 60 empanelled hospitals spread across the Country. With the mission-'**Health for All**', I am sanguine that this scheme will have very far-reaching effects in improving the overall well-being of the State's Populace. As is the common understanding that a Healthy Society paves way for a vibrant and developed State, an era of equitable development will be order of the day.

In the education sector, the Government has been able to inch closer to the national literacy rate with a host of flagship schemes- (Chief Minister's Talent Award, Vidya, Teacher's Award and Sanitary Napkins scheme etc.) These schemes will continue while the Chief Minister's Talent Scheme Award will be made more effective by renaming the same as the Chief Minister's Global Education Program. By doing so, the **State Government in association with the Google Education will make special emphasis on E-learning through custom designed curriculum.**

The host of awards, accolades and commendations received by the Government is a testimony of the tireless efforts made by it for all round development of the State. To mention a few, Arunachal Pradesh was bestowed with Krishi Karman Commendation Award for increase growth of food grains, which stands at 3.895 Lakhs Metric Tonnes in 2013-14. The state, which has shown exemplary agri-performance in 14 different categories, was awarded with Rs one crore cash and a citation. Incidentally, **the state had won the same award for 2012-13 (for producing 3.62 lakh MT food grains as compared with 3.34 lakh MT during 2010-11, an increase of 8.63 per cent of state's total food grain production.)**

Arunachal Pradesh has bagged India's Best Project-2014 award for implementation of skill development and employment generation in the State for the benefit of youth, mostly less-educated and school drop-outs. The award, instituted by Skoch Group, which deals with socio-economic issues was presented by Union Minister for Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Venkaiah Naidu in a ceremony at the National Capital on November 21, 2014.

Arunachal Pradesh was recognized as the fifth 'Best Performing State' in the country in terms of devolution of power to Panchayati Raj Institutes and the State received a cash award of Rs. 1.00 Crore along with a citation. In 2013, Arunachal was ranked 27th in the list.

In the Economic Times' Power Focus Summit 2015, Arunachal Pradesh was awarded as the best State for its contribution in the Power Sector.

On the infrastructure front, under the Prime Minister's Special Economic Package, which is estimated to be about Rs 33,000 Crore, some of the very important projects such as the Itanagar Water Supply and Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway line have been completed. (The works on the Trans-Arunachal Highway and District Connectivity, Tezu Airport, Advanced Landing grounds, 110 MW Pare Hydro electrical Project and Civil Secretariat etc. are progressing.) **However, considering the existing pace, the speed of progress must be systematically enhanced by upgrading capacities to fast track completion of these important projects.** My Government is working on these lines. **On my part, I have apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister and interacted with concerned ministries in the central govt on various constraints and bottlenecks in the implementation.** I am hopeful that with the intervention of Central Government, the implementation will be given an impetus.

A comprehensive 132 KV Trans Arunachal Transmission Grid amounting to Rs 3200 Crores has been sanctioned recently and the works will commence shortly.

This project when completed will provide an end to end power related solution for the State in addition to the reliable broadband connectivity to all the districts, which is inbuilt in the project.

All over the country, power reforms have been initiated and my government has also taken steps in this direction. I compliment the same. Hon'ble members are a vital part of these positive reforms for successful implementation.

My Government clearly understands that a transparent Government is the best Government. With this philosophy, the Government has taken lot of measures. At the execution level, with use of IT a robust mechanism of keeping a consolidated database of projects and monitoring through 3rd Party Monitors is in place. These monitors are also encouraged to use technology for error free monitoring and real-time reporting. For this digital pens will be used to record reports. This pen with GPS and capability to transmit low bit data will work even with weak Internet connectivity. Further, **the Government is in the process of developing a website where all citizens will be 3rd Party Monitors**, wherein they will be able to report deficiencies in projects.

At the institutional level, in addition to the existing vigilance mechanism, Lokayukta Act has already been passed and will be put in place soon.

The impact of the slowdown in the growth of the nation's economy coupled with the fiscal constraints caused by the cumulative impact of the last five years of the 13th Finance Commission, the State Finances witnessed stress and accordingly a string of measures have been put in place by the Government to curtail wasteful expenditure, while sustaining the spending on Planned activities.

However, on the bright side, this is the terminal year of the 13th Finance Commission and the 14th Finance Commission awards will be operational w.e.f 1.4.2015. My government has made out a very strong case before the visiting Chairman and Members of the 14th Finance Commission to compensate for the erroneous assessment by the 13th Finance Commission and also recommend for higher allocations to the State. The recommendations have already been submitted to the Union Government.

Last year being an election year and with new governments taking charge at both the Centre and State, there was delay in taking up Plan activities. However, **In order to keep the momentum of growth and development, my Government has gone ahead with the preparation of the Annual Operating Plan.** The Plan focuses on the continued emphasis on the Social and economic sectors, while the investment in infrastructure such as roads, bridges and water supply finds prominence in the Plan expenditure. The AOP has also kept adequate provision for all the State Flagship schemes.

I am delighted to share that my Government has taken up a very onerous but challenging task of preparing the Arunachal Vision-2030, a broad framework encompassing all areas of Governance- the social sectors, economic potential, enabling infrastructure and social Harmony. In doing so, the Government has emphasized that the resource projection would be the first agenda and accordingly the 15 year perspective vision would be put in place. This emanates from the seriousness of the Government to come out with a workable and achievable vision. I have personally sensitized the Central govt on the issue.

In furtherance of this goal, Committees will be formed and the guidance of experts in each sector will be taken. My Government being a people's government, feedback and suggestions will also be sought from all sections of the society – **People's Vision** will be the endeavour of this challenging task.

As we all know, access to finance by the poor and vulnerable groups is a prerequisite for poverty reduction and social cohesion. This has to become an integral part of our efforts to promote inclusive growth and financial inclusion. It is a fact, providing access to finance is a form of empowerment of the vulnerable groups.

For all the special efforts in the financial inclusion, the first step is to open bank accounts for each and every citizen. The endeavour must be there for opening bank accounts for 100% population of the State. Given the constraints of terrain, the reach of JAN DHAN YOJNA to remote areas is a challenge and we have to find innovative methods to achieve it.

Today, I would like to share some important points with you, which I feel will help you and the people you are representing and the State.

First and foremost, Hon'ble members of this house, I would like to appeal to you all to spend as much time as possible in your constituencies and ensure that all the projects of the State and Central Governments are implemented properly. During my tour of districts, I will be happy to interact and discuss issues of concern with you.

Secondly, please rise above local constraints and tribal affiliations for the development of the State and country as a whole. Remember, time is running out.

Thirdly, I would expect that elected leaders encourage, embolden and positively guide the civil society. Effort must be made to guarantee transparency and public participation in the governance. I am very happy to see peaceful democratic protest replacing the bandh culture. The public institutions are under greater scrutiny and being strengthened. The people protest against extortion and corruption and fight against drugs menace reflects the healthy concern of the people.

Fourth is which I have spoken in my Republic Day speech. I want to reiterate in the House again. Our State has God gifted green environment. Arunachal Pradesh is recognized by its vast green cover, its rich flora and fauna. The indigenous communities have the tradition of taking care of the pristine green environment. We have to preserve this asset for our prosperity and future generation.

You all know that our State experiences very heavy rainfall during the year, almost eight months but during winter, there is scarcity of water in most of the place, particularly in urban areas. We have to develop rainwater conservation techniques. Watershed approach including soil and water conservation need to be inculcated. We require sustainable water resource management and role of hydrological modeling is paramount. Use of our latest space technologies for natural resource management in the State needs to be explored. **Rainwater harvesting must be encouraged and made mandatory in building construction. At the same time renewable energy, i.e. solar and wind must be encouraged.**

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Yojna and measures to conserve water and energy are some of the flagship programmes launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. These are vital national development initiatives and require your special attention.

Change is an integral part of evolution and will be a perpetual phenomenon. Therefore in delivery of Good Governance too we must all be the change- be it the legislators, the bureaucrats, the civil society and more importantly each and every citizen of our beloved state. **When all are partners in our shared goals and put the combined strengths towards this focused endeavour, I see no reason why we shall not be the most developed state in India and truly be land of the Rising Sun!**

Today, I join all the esteemed members of this august house in paying our respect to the former members, whom we lost in the last one year. In the recent past, we lost former Chief Minister Late Jarbom Gamlin, former Speaker of this House and minister, Late Setong Sena, and former minister and Member of Parliament Late Sobeng Tayeng. Let us pray for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

As I conclude may I remind you all that the seed of progress have ripened and the ground is fertile. **Hon'ble Members, Innovation happens when ripe seeds fall on fertile grounds.**

So let us all work towards our common goal of giving a better life to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh.

Jai Hind, Jai Arunachal