



**SPEECH**

**OF**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

**GEN JJ SINGH, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),**

**GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**CELEBRATION OF MOPIN FESTIVAL**

**AT AALO**

**ON**

**MONDAY, 06 APRIL, 2009**

On the auspicious occasion of Mopin, we extend sincere greetings to all of you. I hope the festival ushers happiness, universal peace, a bumper harvest and prosperity for all.

Seeing the passionate participation of each one of you, I am sure the people, including guests and invitees will have treasured reminiscences of this festivity. I am having a wonderful time with people of Aalo. It is an experience of a lifetime to see and experience the customary and traditional rituals, carnival of traditional dances and exotic cuisines and also 'Opo.'

I would like to thank the organizing committee of the festival for giving my wife and my guests a wonderful opportunity to experience the thrill and joy of being part of this memorable celebration.

Friends, I would like to state that Mopin, the socio-religious and agricultural festival of the Galo community, which is observed to propitiate the Supreme Divine Power symbolizing the bounteous Goddess Ane Mopin, the Goddess of prosperity, is the mirror of the rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh. I am pleased to note that the community, led by its elite has taken pains to rejuvenate, preserve and promote the treasured customs and traditions inherited from Abo Tani. With the solid foundation, you have laid so far, I am confident that the celebration of Mopin will continue for ages and also have a positive impact towards creating an environment of mutual understanding and harmony.

Showcasing an amazing array of activities and entertainment along with Popir, I envisage a huge scope for cultural tourism. For that, friends, we have to have a very welcoming attitude towards our guests. Let us demonstrate our highly admired tribal hospitality. It should be our endeavour to ensure their comfortable stay on the lines of 'Atithi Devo Bhava.' Once it gets flowing, with our huge tourism potential, people will prefer Arunachal instead of other places and all Arunachalees will prosper.

Friends, I am very happy to inform you that the President of India, as you all know was on a three days tour to Arunachal Pradesh. She was enchanted by the vivid and vibrant cultural heritage of the State. Astonished by the large number of distinct cultures of each of the twenty-seven major tribes of the State, she has expressed her appreciation that Arunachalees have preserved the age-old customs and traditions which have been handed down the generations. This is our identity. Therefore, on this auspicious and joyous occasion, let us pledge to work in unison to zealously guard our proud heritage.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal to everyone, on a subject which has pained me most in recent times, the forest fires. It was like burning down our own homes! For a better future of our children and grandchildren, we have no choice but to preserve our environment and forests, which are our green gold. Our people all around the State are not arsonists, but they are using fire as a cheap tool to manage the natural vegetation for their meager agricultural needs. Unfortunately, some of these fires become uncontrolled and have negative impacts on the forest ecosystems and the flora and

fauna, and the losers are going to be the future generations. Therefore, I would earnestly like to appeal each one of you to carry the message – ‘Save our forests’.

Dear Arunachalees, the State can further forge ahead, if each one of you actively cooperates and participates in constructive and development related activities. The State can become one of the leading States in the country, if everyone of us contributes to the best of our ability and capacity. Therefore, let us be part of ‘Team Arunachal,’ and put in our best. On this auspicious occasion of Mopin, let us pledge to contribute all that is possible towards the development and prosperity of our beloved State.

Before I conclude, I congratulate the people of Aalo for the magnificent and well harmonized celebration of the Mopin this year. Me and my wife Anupama, will definitely carry the sweet memories of this carnival forever.

I offer my prayers to Almighty Donyi-Polo and Ane Mopin to bless each one of us with their choicest blessings.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.