



**SPEECH**

**OF**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

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

**GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**CELEBRATION OF 2553<sup>RD</sup> BUDDHA JAYANTI**

**AT THERAVEDA BUDDHIST TEMPLE,**

**VIVEK VIHAR, ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**SATURDAY, 09 MAY, 2009**

Most Reverent Monks, devotees, members of the Festival Organizing Committee, distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a privilege to have the opportunity to participate with you today on this sacred day. Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and took Samadhi on this very Day.

On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all of you. I hope this festive occasion will help in the dissemination of the teachings of Lord Buddha and also strengthen the emotional integration and mutual understanding amongst our citizens.

One of the greatest spiritual teachers of mankind, Gautam Buddha had enlightened each one of us through his teachings and shown the path of truth and eternal values of non-violence to entire humanity. His teachings encompass the entire 'Wheel of Dharm', with its central axis of ethical discipline and have the power to transform our lives and fill us with abiding spiritual strength. It is for this very same reason that persons of knowledge and learning have defined the Buddha Dharma not as a religion, but as a philosophy of life.

Buddha's philosophical analysis of the basic problem of human suffering and misery helped to hold before the common man a purified and simplified Eight-Fold Path of Salvation, i.e., the right type of life-view, of intention, of speech, action, livelihood, effort, frame of mind and of concentration.

Buddha's teachings are of eternal significance in the present time also. As you all know, the Buddhist Philosophy is based on the principle of 'cause and effect'. Thus through the application of the Buddha Dharma, it is possible to analyze the causes and factors that lie behind the political, economic, social and environmental conflicts that engulf the world. I strongly believe, it is possible, through the application of this Dharma, we can identify the possible solutions for them. Also through the application of the Buddha Dharma, the factors that lie behind the prevalence of poverty, ethnic conflict, domestic disharmony, dissatisfaction, and the decline in social norms and values, can be analyzed and solutions identified for them.

Venerable Monks and esteemed members of the community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your immense contributions in making our beautiful State of Arunachal Pradesh, an island of peace. As most of you are working in Lohit and Changlang districts, I would like to appeal to all of you to take a leading role in supporting the efforts of the State Government with regard to drug de-addiction.

Before, I conclude, once again, I would like to thank the venerable monks, organizing committee and all those who have put in their efforts towards the celebration of this auspicious day.

May the propitious occasion help all of us to imbibe Lord Buddha's teachings and to have his blessings for the enduring wellbeing of each member of the society.

Thank you,

God Bless you.