



**SPEECH**

**OF**

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

**GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF  
INTERSTATE YOUTH EXCHANGE & HOME  
STAY PROGRAMME**

**AT**

**VIVEKANANDA HALL,  
R.K. MISSION HOSPITAL,  
ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**TUESDAY, 10 NOV, 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen and all my young and energetic friends from different parts of the country, who are present here. I am delighted to be here with you all.

On behalf of all Arunachalees and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to Arunachal Pradesh, the land of Rising Sun. I hope, with the pristine God gifted greenery and scenic beauty, clean mountain fresh air, crystal clear water and our warm tribal hospitality, you will have a wonderful stay in this frontier State. It is my firm belief, this interesting programme organized by National Service Scheme (NSS) in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, will go a long way in inspiring our energetic and spirited youths in nation building and in spreading the message of unity and oneness among all Indians. I am sure it will help in understanding the community in which you work, understand ourselves in relation to their community, and also identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving. Such programmes will also help in inculcating a sense of social and civic responsibility in our youth. It will also help to gain skills in mobilizing the community, acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitudes. National integration and social harmony will also be instilled in the youth, the future of our country. Therefore, I would like to call upon each and every youth to participate whole heartedly in such programmes. I would like to place on record my appreciation to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, Sriperumbudur and the State NSS Cell of the Directorate of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh for conducting this programme.

Friends, India is a land of diverse cultures and traditions. Each region of the country has a unique culture. Almost every region has its specific folk music and dance, reflecting deep rooted beliefs and traditions of communities. In the same way, Arunachal Pradesh is a mini India. It is not only rich in biodiversity but also rich in ethnic and cultural diversity. The diversity in culture and tradition of our State is reflected the cultural mosaic of these different tribes. I hope during the 10-day programme, you will come across these basic nuances of Arunachalee Society.

My young friends, I would like to commend this unique concept of Home Stay, especially with regard to North East in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular. I will be very happy, if each one of you learn one dance step, a song and recipe of indigenous food of the State and also teach one each to the family members who will be hosting you. I think through this youth exchange programme and Home Stay, we will be able to change the mind set of people towards the tribal communities of the region. It is due to the wrong notion about our tribal brethren among the people in metropolitan cities that some of our people face harassment and misunderstandings. I hope, my friends, who are participating in this programme will be force multipliers in erasing this wrong notion. It says, if you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders. Therefore, I want you all to shoulder this responsibility.

Friends, Youth means the predominance of courage over timidity, of adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of sixty more than in a boy of twenty. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by forgetting our ideals.

There is a well-known saying, which says,  
'You are as young as your **faith**, as old as your **doubt**;  
as young as your **self-confidence**, as old as your **fear**;  
as young as your **hope**, as old as your **despair**.'

Therefore, friends, be open to new ideas and new friends. Try to learn new subjects and new people. You will be happy to know and to have a first hand experience of the richness of age-old cultural assets of this region. I have recently laid the foundation stone of an institution, Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions Cultures & Heritage at Iduli Village, near Roing in Lower Dibang Valley, which will initiate comparative and cross cultural studies of ethnic societies covering different countries, and also with that of India in general, and north east in particular.

I am aware and as are the elders of the society that today's youth are looking forward to a bright future and has the desire to build a new India, a strong and prosperous Nation. It is, therefore, our responsibility to provide them the necessary opportunities and

facilities as also address the problems facing them. At the same time, it is the responsibility of our youth to prepare themselves for the responsibilities that lie ahead and to look at the challenges facing the nation. The youth have a role to play in addressing social issues, including eliminating evil social customs, contributing to India's economic development, participating in its political life, protecting the environment, preserving India's good age old traditions and living up to the high standards of India's ideals and values. For meeting the future with confidence and fulfilling the dream of modern India, the youth would have to inculcate in themselves a sense of discipline, a spirit of tolerance, a quest for knowledge, a positive mind and respect for fellow human beings. It is a well known fact that the solution to adult problems tomorrow depends on large measure upon the how our children grow up today. There is no greater insight into the future than recognizing when we save our children, we save ourselves. Hence, it is my appeal to all my children, the youth of today, to aim high and approach life with sincerity and dedication. There is no short cut to hard work and success.

Before, I conclude, I urge upon each one of you, with the strength of our rich cultural heritage, ethical and spiritual values embedded in our traditions and unconquerable spirit and creativity in you, let us build a society that we would always be proud of. Let us rise to the expectation of our elders and our brothers and sisters, our countrymen. Let us build a new, strong, prosperous, disciplined and efficient India.

Thank you,

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.