



ADDRESS

OF

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

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE INAUGURAL SESSION

OF

**10TH CONFERENCE OF HIGHER &
TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

AT

**BANQUET HALL,
ITANAGAR**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it my proud privilege to address the inaugural session of this 10th conference of Higher and Technical Education here today. At the outset, let me congratulate all the teachers, professors and academicians who were felicitated today. It is only through your untiring efforts that we are today laying the foundations of a strong, vibrant and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. On behalf of all the people of Arunachal Pradesh, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to you. I also congratulate all the students who have excelled in various fields and brought laurels not only to themselves but also to their families, teachers and their educational institutes. Your felicitation here today will serve as an example for many of your juniors who look upto you as their role model. I would urge all of you to aim for perfection in all spheres of life and settle for nothing short of excellence.

I would like to take this opportunity to share my views on the educational scenario in Arunachal Pradesh with the galaxy of intellectuals and academicians who have gathered here from different parts of the State.

In the words of Durant, Education is nothing but the progressive realization of one's ignorance. It is therefore understandable that the foundation for an effective higher and technical education sector in the State is a strong primary education sector. Lincoln had said – Give me six hours to chop a tree and I shall spend the first five hours sharpening

the axe. Similarly, any effort at strengthening the higher education sector has to begin by fine-tuning the formal and informal primary education sector. This has to be the State Govt's primary duty.

However, while the focus of the Government should continue to be primary education, the mandatory obligation of providing quality higher and technical education to our students can certainly not be forsaken. Whereas primary education helps in extracting diamonds from hard rocks, higher education polishes these diamonds – it adds value to these diamonds and helps realize their true potential and value. We are fortunate that today, India is supplying a pool of talented and technically qualified manpower to the entire world. Unfortunately however, the share of Arunachal Pradesh in this pool continues to be abysmally low. We need to introspect and reflect on this. With so many of dignitaries who have the right attitude, passion, will and experience gathered here today, I think its an appropriate forum to discuss and deliberate on this issue.

The reasons could be several, but it certainly isn't the lack of high quality mind-power. A few days back, I had the opportunity to meet a young boy from a small village of Tirap District by the name of Ranphoa. He is studying computer-science at NERIST. He is a whiz-kid, a superboy who takes only a few seconds to solve complicated puzzles like Rubik's cube. He does it even blind-folded. He has won several

national championships and has also done very well in mind-games like chess. He has his name recorded in the Limca Book of Records for solving the World's Largest Jigsaw Puzzle. I had invited him over to the Raj Bhawan and watching him fiddle with his puzzles was a sheer delight to the eyes. He does not come from an elite family, nor did he study in any expensive or elite school outside Arunachal Pradesh. He is a self-taught and self-discovered genius. If talent like this can come from a remote insurgency affected village of Arunachal Pradesh, I am sure that there simply cannot be a dearth of it in other parts.

Which brings us to the important question of how to identify and nurture this talent. I am informed that till some years back, a special dispensation was given to the students of Arunachal Pradesh and they were deemed passed in Class 10th even if they had not cleared the mathematics exam. Maybe the requirements of those times necessitated this, but it certainly restricted the building up of a talented pool of young scientists and thinkers. Even today, most of the new teachers recruited under SSA are for Arts and Humanities subjects with a result that there is no availability of science and mathematics teachers in village primary schools. Most of the existing teachers in these subjects continue to be localized only in urban centers. With a poor background in technical subjects, the entire feeder group for higher education lacks the appropriate skill-set. The Govt has now

taken up a special project for construction of teachers' quarters for science and mathematics teachers posted in remote villages. I am sure this would encourage our teachers to go to interior areas and help cater to those sectors of formal education system which have hitherto been neglected.

Our State is passing through an exciting but challenging phase of development. Over the last two years, the state has seen an unprecedented number of infrastructure projects being initiated and taking shape. These projects would require technically qualified manpower – both during gestation stage and for subsequent running and maintenance. We must ensure that this stock of quality man-power is available from within the State rather than importing it from places outside Arunachal Pradesh. It is therefore, an onerous responsibility on our professors and teachers to equip our students with such skills as are required for their gainful employment. Nothing succeeds like success and hence, the most effective way of promoting higher and technical education amongst students is to demonstrate the benefits that accrue from such learning.

Another issue which I must flag at this stage is the training of the trainers. The Institutes of higher education must seriously consider organizing regular in-service training and refresher courses for the skill-upgradation and knowledge updation of our teachers. I had recently met Sh. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development in New Delhi

and requested for his support for bringing about qualitative and quantitative changes in the educational scenario of our State. I have also asked him to send National Award winning teachers to the State for conducting educational camps and also for providing training to our State teachers. He has promised to send a high-level official team to study the existing education scenario and take appropriate steps after receiving feedback. I hope it will definitely give impetus to our efforts of providing better educational opportunities to our Children.

During a recent visit to my regimental center at Belgaum, I had asked the Chancellor of KLE University for helping the students of Arunachal Pradesh gain access to higher and technical education by providing admission and financial scholarships for their study at the University. The Chancellor has responded very positively to my request and assured all help to the deserving and needy students of the State.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad that during the technical sessions, you have proposed discussions on opening of new colleges and institutes. I am glad to share with you that an NIT and a medical college have already been approved for the State. However our duty does not end with this approval – we now have to ensure that each year, sufficient number of students from Arunachal Pradesh secure enough marks which ensures their admission in these

prestigious institutes. Else, most of the seats will go to students belonging to other States. This preparatory work has to be completed within the gestation period of these projects. Else, by failing to plan, we would be planning to fail.

I am sure that during the deliberations during the day, you will discuss some of the issues highlighted by me and also consider the suggestions given by me in the overall interest of educational scenario of the State. The recommendations that you will be firming up by the end of the day will certainly provide useful guidelines to the policy makers in planning better for the Educational sector in the State.

Friends, as I close, I want to remind you that an educational system isn't really worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living without teaching them how to make a life. My favorite teacher would be one who gives his pupils, something to take home to think about, besides homework. I am sure all of you would always realize and be mindful of this arduous task that we have entrusted to you, and in the realization of our goals, you would make us proud.

I wish you all well and this conference, tremendous success

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.