



सत्यमेव जयते

SPEECH  
OF  
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THE GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ON THE OCCASION  
OF  
23<sup>rd</sup> STATEHOOD DAY  
AT  
ITANAGAR  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Dorjee Khandu, Distinguished guests and my dear brothers, sisters and children of Arunachal Pradesh!

It is indeed a proud moment for me to deliver this address on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> State-hood day of Arunachal Pradesh. On this historic occasion, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to all Aruanchalees. I would also like to convey my gratitude to the people of the State, especially the Gaon Buras, Panchayat leaders, youths, students, police and para-military forces, Border Roads Organisation, administrative officers and all other government officials for their unstinted support in the development of the state and also the Armed Forces for the defence of the borders and the Army in particular for their contribution towards the development of the Border Areas.

At the outset, I pay my tribute to our beloved former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who laid the foundation of Arunachal as a State within Indian Union on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987. Exactly 15 years before attaining the statehood, the then NEFA was converted into Union Territory and named as Arunachal Pradesh by our visionary former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The people of this tribal state still cherish the fond memories of visits by our former Prime Ministers Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. They all loved this state deeply and the tradition continues with the recent visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit was an event of historical significance. Various important developmental programmes of over twenty thousand crores have been announced by the Prime Minister. Hence, we are confident that within a reasonable span of time, Arunachal Pradesh will catch up with other developed states of our country. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiatives such as Trans-Arunachal Highway, two lane highway to each district headquarters, four lane highway to Itanagar, Border Village Illumination Programme,

connection of 513 habitations by roads under PMGSY, green-field airport at Itanagar and operationalisation of nine other air-strips, rail connectivity and drinking water supply project for Itanagar are revolutionary as far as the betterment of socio-economic profile of this state is concerned. I must congratulate Shri Khandu for successfully convincing the Central Government about need for rapid socio-economic development of the state.

Yesterday, I visited three of the remotest areas of Arunachal Pradesh in Upper Siang district namely Singa, Tuting and Gelling, all very close to the international border. At Singa and Gelling, I and my wife trekked for an hour or so to each to the micro-hydel stations completed under the PM's package. Friends, I am proud to see such kind of development in the remote inaccessible areas of Arunachal Pradesh. One should feel proud to note that we are providing electricity to areas which require four days foot march to reach from the nearest road ahead. I am also happy to note that almost 200 such projects are coming up in the border areas under PM's package and delighted to learn that within year or so all our border villages will be illuminated.

Last year, while celebrating the 22<sup>nd</sup> Statehood day I mentioned that Quote 'I must tell my fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh that the announcement of the package is just a beginning. A great amount of will-power and hard work will be required to convert this package into reality. We will have to undertake a complete Government Process Re-engineering to shift ourselves from the programme mode to the project mode. Many reforms are required to be undertaken in the administrative, engineering and policing machinery to ensure that the process of development continues at the optimum speed reaching to the poorest of the poor of the state.' Unquote. I am very happy to note that the State has done remarkable progress on many of the projects despite various constraints. Recently I visited the work on the drinking water supply project for Itanagar and also planning a visit to the Pare Hydro and Railway work and airport project. Next week I will be laying

foundation stone of one of the roads under Prime Minister's package at Taliha in Upper Subanisiri district.

I must congratulate the State Government for introducing the concept of third party monitoring for the first time. This has been appreciated by the Planning Commission of India. Our use of websites for information sharing and transparency, state and district level monitoring committees involving the Panchayat Leaders are praiseworthy. I hope that the Government continues with these reforms and make Arunachal a model state in the country.

In the last 22 years, our state has made tremendous progress in every field of development, and the last year saw a surge in the pace. Committed to the people first approach, my government is determined to make Arunachal Pradesh a role model of all round development. Our efforts will continue so as to ensure that every section of the society reaps the benefits of development. One thing I am fully convinced is that the bigger projects will definitely come sooner or later, what we urgently need is the sustained income generating activities for the rural masses especially women and youth. This financial empowerment can come through the initiatives such as Tourism, handicrafts, horticulture, floriculture, beekeeping, organic farming etc. I am glad to inform all of you that my Government has taken up the project of establishing 5000 Self Help Groups through Micro-Finance Vision 2011.

Recently Government has enacted the New Industrial Policy to encourage large scale investment in setting up various types of industries in the state. With the near saturation of absorption capacity of the Government sector, now the Private sector will be encouraged to become a bigger source of employment coupled with ancillary developments which accrue because of setting up of various industries in the private sector.

We are confident that with the growing support from the Government of India, our long felt needs such as connectivity in the form of road, rail and air as well as tele-communication, electrification, water supply, health and education will be satisfied in a phased manner with maximum speed. The Chief Minister Shri Khandu has already projected our requirements to the Planning Commission of India through various meetings.

I will use this forum to tell all fellow Aruanchalees that my Government has taken up the matter pertaining to implementation of sixth central pay commission seriously. Chief Minister in his speech has already elaborated on this front. We have approached all authorities in the Government of India to provide some financial relief to the state to cater for this huge requirement and also working very hard to augment our own resources. I had also appealed to the Prime Minister in a letter to give a sympathetic consideration to our state's needs which are justified. However, I appeal to the agitating employees to give up the path of non-cooperation and pen down. Here, I am reminded of what I said on this year's Republic Day address, when I said 'Adopt other means for raising your demands or grievances. Go for a black badge,' I am very happy to note that yesterday, when I was touring a remote border district, my driver there was doing his duty very sincerely but was wearing a black badge to express his concern on this issue, but without compromising his duties. Ultimately, it is our own government and the people whom we are serving, who are also our own brothers and sisters. I am hopeful that our state will overcome this problem with everyone's cooperation and support in the interest of our State so that all our attention is channelised towards development of the state.

Today, I take this opportunity to assure you all on behalf of my Government that whatever support we get from the central Government will be used in an innovative and productive manner. We will work hard in improving our administrative mechanism so that better quality of life is made

available to the citizens in remote villages as early as possible. Though the Government has constraints of financial resources, the need of the social sector is receiving utmost priority. Recently, the State Government has created a corpus of Rs60 Cr for VKV and RK Mission Schools. We have been working hard to implement all the flagship programmes like *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, National Rural Health Mission, *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, Total Sanitation Campaign, *Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana*, and to ensure that the benefits of these programmes reach the remotest corners of the state as well.

My dear Aruanchalees, on this festive occasion, let us make an effort with missionary zeal to bring smile and contentment on the faces of our brothers and sisters. Let us pledge to work united as TEAM ARUNACHAL to eradicate illiteracy, poverty, inequality and corruption from our beautiful pristine Arunachal Pradesh and contribute all that is possible for its progress and prosperity.

At the end, I take this opportunity to appeal to each and every citizen of this state including the political leaders, government servants and the youth to join hands in the developmental process by working hard and with sincerity, to realize the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister which he shared with us on this same platform on 31<sup>st</sup> January, when he said that 'Arunachal Pradesh will rise from the East as a new star and become one of the best regions of our country !'

Jai Arunachal ! Jai Hind!