



ADDRESS  
OF  
GENERAL J.J. SINGH, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)  
THE GOVERNOR  
OF  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ON THE OCCASION  
OF  
REPUBLIC DAY 2009  
AT  
ITANAGAR

My beloved people of Arunachal Pradesh,

1. On this auspicious occasion of the fifty-ninth anniversary of our Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings, felicitations and best wishes to all who have gathered here today, and to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh. I also greet the members of the armed forces and paramilitary forces who guard our land borders, air space, coastal frontiers and also internal security forces.

2. Friends, the twenty-sixth January, 1950 was a red letter day. It was the first milestone in our march towards realizing the dreams of our people in the aftermath of Independence. Today, let us remember and pay our tributes with profound veneration to our forefathers who had brought forth freedom to this Nation, and gave us the Constitution which guarantees, amongst others, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. We salute the committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which conceived and drafted it.

3. On this august occasion, I seek to briefly highlight the vision and some of the achievements of the State Government. My Government has taken up, in spite of various constraints, number of initiatives on various fronts and laid a strong edifice on which it can help build a modern, strong, stable and self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh. To achieve the desired objectives within a set time-frame it has already set in motion the process towards fine tuning the administrative system to render it 'People-Oriented, People-Friendly and People-First' approach.

4. I am extremely happy that the past one year happened to be quite eventful in the history of development of Arunachal. There has been an unprecedented burst of development activities never witnessed earlier in the annals of the State. It was the year, the State of Arunachal Pradesh received the most priceless aid from the Union Government in the form of Prime Minister's development package.

5. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiatives such as Trans-Arunachal Highway, Border Village Illumination Programme, connection of 513 habitations by roads under PMGSY, green-field airport at Itanagar, activating other nine air-strips, rail connectivity for Capital region, completion of incomplete projects etc are revolutionary as far as the betterment of socio-economic profile of this state is concerned.

6. I must congratulate the Chief Minister Shri Khandu for successfully convincing the Central Government about the need for rapid socio-economic development of the state and also I must thank all those who contributed immensely towards the envisionment of the historical package announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

7. As its commitment to the people, the Government has tried its best to achieve excellence in every field of development. The Central schemes are being implemented in a proper and correct perspective, for the benefit of common people. The system of Third Party Monitoring instituted for the very first time is revolutionary and praiseworthy.

8. My Government is concerned about promotion and development of human resources, the most vital asset we have in our State. Along with qualitative improvement of education, the State Government has been encouraging girls' education. To encourage the Arunachal Pradesh scheduled tribe students for taking UPSC examinations, the stipend of the students who have qualified the preliminary and main examination has been enhanced to Rs. 30,000/- and to Rs. 50,000/- respectively from the year 2008-09. In order to build up the infrastructure for Higher Education, a special plan allocation of Rs.10 Crore was earmarked for the higher education while for Primary Education an allocation of Rs.8 (Eight) Crore was made under the Special Plan Allocation.

9. I am glad that the law and order situation during last year, by and large remained peaceful and under control. It is my pleasure to commend the Home department and all ranks of our Police forces for sincere and dedicated service to the people. We are in the process of establishment of third IR Battalion. My Government has also taken up the initiative to raise Arunachal Scouts Battalions which will give employment to many young people and they will be given a responsibility to defend their motherland. You will be happy to know, under active persuasion of the State Government, one battalion of Indian army has been deployed in Tirap district for counter insurgency operations.

10. Friends, you will be also happy to know that a state-level security core group, headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, had been constituted for proper co-ordination between the administration, army and other intelligence agencies.

11. My Government has also continued to accord priority to the healthcare sector and promotion of welfare measures for the weaker sections of the society. Our Public Private Partnership model in running of the Primary Health Centers has become a role model for other states to follow.

12. My dear fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh, the Government has been striving hard to improve the food and livelihood security of economically and ecologically underprivileged areas and masses. Under the guidelines of new Agriculture Policy and with implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, my government aims to raise the income of the farmers, enhance productivity under shifting cultivation areas, creation of market infrastructure and processing facility and also enhance the total production of rice, coarse cereals and cash crops.

13. As large section of our population comes under agrarian community, horticultural activities come under the thrust areas. It is a fact, that horticulture in the State has paved a way for new era of evolution in providing an alternative source of income for the rural masses.

14. As you all are aware, the status of environmental cleanliness is one of the indicators of development of a nation. We have to keep our surroundings clean and also maintain the pristine green environment. This is essential for better health conditions of all the citizens and also for presenting a wholesome and aesthetic atmosphere for us and also the tourists visiting our State.

15. My Government has continued to give priority to the development and welfare of rural areas. As such, various schemes such as IAY, SGRY, SGSY, IWDP, NREGS, BADP, etc. have been implemented to ensure that the fruits of development reach even the people living in the remotest part of the State. The benefits of rural connectivity have been felt mostly in the remote areas where PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana) roads have made it easier for the rural populace to cope with the difficult terrain.

16. Border Village Illumination Program is one of the most promising programmes under the PM's package under which we target to provide electricity to more than 1800 villages through the combination of solar and micro-hydels. My Government has also enacted HYDRO-POWER POLICY 2008 and RELIEF AND REHABILITATION POLICY 2008 to deal with the mega projects.

17. My government has given emphasis on the grassroots system of governance through Panchayat Raj institution. Along with devolution of functional activities under 29 (Twenty-nine) subjects, which have been notified and circulated, the State government has also sanctioned Rs. 30 (Thirty) lakhs each for each District Planning Committee.

18. To promote industrial activity in the State and thereby creating economic development and also creating avenues for employment opportunities, my government has brought out new STATE INDUSTRIAL POLICY 2008. It also envisages providing industrial employment, self employment in the rural and urban areas and enterprising activities.

19. My Government also accords priority to development and promotion of the textile and handicrafts sectors. Along with free training, the weavers and artisans are being encouraged to establish their own small scale industrial units as well as units under co-operative banner.

20. Along with it and in pursuance of the Central government's 'Look East Policy,' my government is putting tremendous effort to facilitate border trade with Myanmar through Pangsau Pass in Changlang district and Bhutan through Dongshengmang and Bongkhar in Tawang district. We also propose to set up a multi-facility trade centre in the capital complex on the line of Guwahati Trade Center.

21. With revival of the Arunachal Pradesh Cooperative Apex Bank, for which credit goes to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu and his cabinet, efforts are on to rejuvenate cooperative credit network, to streamline and strengthen cooperative marketing network for agriculture and horticulture initiatives and to strengthen cooperative agro based farming for augmenting production as well as generating income for rural people.

22. In our effort to preserve, project and promote the rich cultural heritage of the State, we have organized Buddha Mahotsava, Siang River and Pangsau Pass festivals along with active participation in the celebrations of festivals of each and every tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

23. Lots of steps have been initiated in this direction and yet a lot more has to be done. We need to organize eco and adventure tourism by building infrastructure of well planned roads connecting places of touristic interest and availability of proper accommodation. Tourism today, not only helps in improving State revenue but it also provide opportunities for self employment and entrepreneurship for the youth.

24. Talking about entrepreneurship and self employment, I would like to highlight on Honey production. Beekeeping offers a great potential for development and is comparatively less demanding in terms of investment, labour and time. With proper packaging and marketing of brand 'Arunachal Honey' to it, it is likely to prove very successful.

25. The achievements under Sports & Youth Services Department are picking up. My government has initiated a programme by identifying disciplines where the state has got good prospects and the conduct of competitions at school, district and State levels to pick up talented sportspersons at a young age.

26. Dear Arunchalees, the Government and the State can forge ahead to keep pace with the rest of India only with the active co-operation and participation of every citizen of the State. Therefore, I would like to earnestly appeal to all citizens to be part of 'Team Arunachal'. Therefore, let us contribute all that is possible towards the development and prosperity of our beloved State.

27. On this red lettered day, I would like to appeal to all, especially the youths against the Bandh Culture. Refrain from these economically and socially unacceptable practices. The worst sufferers are the poor, common people and the student community for no fault of theirs.

28. On this occasion, let us pledge to rededicate ourselves to work hard, selflessly and with utmost sincerity, with true spirit of work ethics and work culture to make Arunachal an ideal and prosperous State of our country. Let us, on this auspicious day, resolve to preserve and strengthen the unity and integrity of this great country.

29. While taking this opportunity, I would also appeal to the people of Arunachal Pradesh to restrain themselves from using plastics, especially plastic bags. Let us make Arunachal Pradesh, the first Plastic free State in the country. It is possible, if we just say no to plastic.

30. Before, I conclude my address, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and congratulate all the officers and staff of the State and the Central Government, military, para-military forces and other organizations serving in the State for rendering dedicated service for the development of this State. In addition, I appreciate the services of the public leaders, members of Panchayati Raj institution, Gaon Burahs, youths, students, NGOs, the media and entire people of Arunachal Pradesh for their constructive role to preserve peace and tranquility of the State.

31. I also commend the State Police, CRPF, ITBP, NCC, Scouts and Guides as well as the students for their high standard of drill and smart turnout on this parade. The members of the various cultural troupes and the school children also deserve our special appreciation for their enthusiastic participation in this important function.

32. Once again, I convey my best wishes to all of you and our brothers and sisters in different parts of the State and Country on this auspicious day.

33. Jai Arunachal! Jai Hind !