



SPEECH

OF

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GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION

OF

REPUBLIC DAY 2011

AT

ITANAGAR

My dear fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh

On this sacred occasion of the 62nd Republic Day of our nation, I extend my warm greetings, good wishes and felicitations to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh and to my brothers and sisters all over the country. I, in particular, greet each one of you who has gathered here at the Indira Gandhi park to be a part of this joyous occasion. On this auspicious occasion, let us pay homage to the valiant and brave heroes who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom of our nation so that their future generations could live as free citizens – independent to determine their own destiny. Let us also remember our great and visionary leaders who guided this nation when it was in its infancy and ensured that it would one day reap the fruits of their hard-work and selfless service.

2. This day belongs to those numerous silent workers, farmers, doctors, engineers, teachers who are working relentlessly for strengthening the foundations of our democracy. I also greet the members of our armed forces, para-military forces, our border-guards and our naval and air warriors without the efforts of whom, we would not have come to occupy the place of pride that we today enjoy in the geo-political scenario.

3. I, in particular, am proud of all the patriotic people of Arunachal Pradesh who have demonstrated their indomitable Arunachali spirit, immense moral courage and fortitude in standing resolute against all odds and are actively working tirelessly for maintaining peace and harmony, and at the same time, vigorously pursuing the developmental activities in the State.

4. Over the last 60 years, our nation has faced numerous challenges, both from within and outside. Yet, with each such challenge, it has emerged as a stronger and a much more mature nation. Our cherished values of being a 'sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic', so deeply enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution should continue to be our guiding principles in future so that we continue to get the strength, wisdom, ability and blessings to face such challenges for all times to come.

5. 2011 is a particularly important year for our State. It is the year when we complete 24 years of our existence as a full-fledged State and enter the 25th year of our Statehood. It is a watershed moment for our State – a time to rejoice as well as to reflect. We have today been placed on a launch-pad where we have the energy of youth and the wisdom of age. The Central Govt. has been laying a concentrated focus on the Development of North-Eastern Region and that of our State in particular. It is an opportune moment and we must all ensure that we make it's optimal use. As the tri-colour flutters majestically, let us commit ourselves to live up to our duties and responsibilities in realizing the vision of a developed Arunachal Pradesh as members of TEAM ARUNACHAL.

6. I now propose to briefly highlight some of the achievements of my Govt. of the year gone-by and the vision and the priorities for the year to come.

7. It shall be the commitment of my Government to ensure education and health facilities to all the sections of the Society. Maintenance of law and order and providing affordable, early and equitable justice to all shall continue to be accorded high priority. Promoting economic activity in the State by boosting tourism, agriculture and horticulture and harnessing the rich hydro-power and mineral potential of the State shall be important thrust areas. While promoting growth and development, it shall be ensured that rights of the indigenous people are in no ways affected and the rich forest area in the State continues to be preserved. Highest priority shall be given to unconnected habitations along the International Border by taking up projects to provide them drinking water facilities and physical connectivity. The developmental agenda of increasing employment opportunities, eradicating poverty and eliminating inequality shall continue to be pursued. There shall be a special and concentrated drive against corruption and streamlining of PDS shall continue to be pursued vigorously.

8. Last year, my Govt. became the first in the North-East and amongst the first in the entire country to implement the recommendations of the 6th pay commission, with full arrears, for all its employees. In spite of serious financial constraints and receiving no additional help from the Central Govt, we were able to honour

our commitment to our employees. Although this led to an additional financial burden of more than Rs. 1,500 crores, through financial discipline and probity, we were able to keep our expenditure within the limits mandated by the Central Govt. and Reserve Bank of India.

9. After a gap of several years, the wages of contingency workers were substantially enhanced this year. This significant step of the Govt. shall bring comfort to more than 20,000 house-holds who were hitherto maintaining their families at less than Rs. 80 per day. The wages of the longest serving contingency employees have been increased to almost thrice their present rate and reservation for them in regular employment has been introduced. This shall also have a multiplier effect on the State economy as other Central Govt. organizations like BRO shall also be constrained to increase the wages for their manual labourers. 1% labour welfare cess has been made compulsory and computerization of all employment exchanges is on the anvil.

10. We received unprecedented support from the Central Govt. in our developmental efforts in the last year. We received a jump of almost 300% in our allocation under 13th Finance Commission compared to that under 12th Finance Commission. Similarly, the Annual Plan Size for 2010-11 is fixed at Rs. 2,500 crores which is almost 25% higher than the Plan Size for 2009-10. This is unprecedented!. For the first time in the last five years, our State had a positive projection of its own resources. Our own tax revenue

increased to double and non-tax revenue to almost three times during 2009-10 as compared to 2005-06 due to good performance from Departments like hydro-power, Tax and Excise, Geology and Mining and Forests etc.

11. Our State received special appreciation and applause from Planning Commission and the Central Govt. for institutionalizing the frame-work for 3rd party monitoring and extending its scope to SPA and BADP projects. A special Project Monitoring Unit has been set up in the Planning Department for monitoring implementation of projects. A landmark project for computerization and inter-linking of all the treasuries of the State is already under implementation. My Govt. will continue to accord very high priority to transparency and the liberal support that we have been receiving from the Central Govt. is largely due to the efforts put in by us in promoting transparency and providing an honest feedback to the Central Govt. on project implementation in the State.

12. Apart from a few sporadic events, the law and order situation in the State continued to be normal. After persistent efforts of my Govt. the first Battalion of the Arunachal Scouts was successfully raised in November 2010. It was heartening to note that more than 95% recruitment to this unit took place from amongst the youth of Arunachal itself. This Battalion will provide an opportunity to the fiercely patriotic youth of Arunachal Pradesh to defend their motherland and will act as a force multiplier for the regular army units and significantly augment their border guarding capabilities.

We have also placed our request for raising three additional battalions of Arunachal Scouts to the Ministry of Defence. The setting up of Divisional Head-quarter of the Indian Army in the vicinity of the capital complex and Brigade Head-quarters at several prominent locations in 2011-12 will greatly improve the security scenario at these locations. I compliment the District Administration and Land management Department for fast identification and handing over of the required land to Army authorities.

13. Last year, more than 100 cadres of various UG organization surrendered in Tirap District, which is an encouraging trend. My Govt. will be making all-out efforts for the rehabilitation of these misguided boys and girls to help them re-join the mainstream.

14. The creation of a separate Director for Border Management and the proposal for raising of Forest Protection Force for deployment along the Assam Border shall help bring down the incidents involving violence along the Assam Border. However, there are reports of unlawful organizations increasing their activities along this Border and it is important that our vigil here continues to remain high.

15. Pace of implementation of work on several important PM package projects increased during the year. Work on the new Secretariat Building and the Legislative Assembly Building is on in full swing and likely to be completed on schedule. Progress of works on railway line to Naharlagun, 4-lane highway to State

capital, 1600 km long trans-Arunachal highway, 2-lane highways to District Headquarters and upgradation of Advanced Landing Grounds at eight locations is satisfactory. With an additional budgetary allocation of Rs. 1400 crores from State resources and projection of Rs. 39.00 crores under Special Plan Assistance, work on the disrupted Itanagar Water Supply project has also resumed. We have also completed more than 1240 out of the 1262 languishing projects sanctioned under the PM package for incomplete projects. All these projects are being monitored intensively at highest levels of administration.

16. Lack of road connectivity in our State is perhaps the biggest impediment against undertaking developmental activities like development of hydro-power projects, promoting tourism, marketing of agriculture and horticulture projects, extraction of mineral resources and opening up of commercially viable areas. As against the national road density of 73.00 km per 100 sq. Km. Arunachal Pradesh has only 22.0 km per 100 sq. Km which is amongst the lowest in the country.

17. Apart from the flagship projects like Trans-Arunachal highway and District connectivity roads, 2752.41 km of rural roads have been connected under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to connect 414 habitations till date. Work on connecting 513 border habitations through 2184.36 kms of additional roads is under progress under Bharat Nirmaan Program. We have taken up a case with the Planning Commission for special sanction of roads to 22

unconnected Administrative Centers of the State and provision of porter tracks, foot suspension bridges and log bridges in border habitations. Special allocation has been made from State's own resources for completion of the important 157 km Miao-Vijaynagar Road which will reduce the journey time from Vijaynagar to Miao from 6 days to 6 hours! My special appreciation goes to the PWD Department and the Chief Engineers Eastern Zone in particular for taking up this project in a mission mode and for assuring its completion before Feb. 2011, in a record time of only about 6 months. I, alongwith our Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Dorjee Khanduji shall be the first to drive up to Vijayanagr once this road is complete.

18. Agriculture and horticulture continue to be the mainstay of the State's economy. Our agricultural growth rate in 2008-09 was 2.47% which was higher than the national average of 1.6%. The cash crops registered a healthy growth rate of 4.14% in 2009-10. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched in the State and this year, we will lay special focus on off-season vegetable cultivation, crop diversification and promotion of double cropping. 8 new Krishi Vigyaan Kendras (KVKs) have been approved at various locations in the State. Special efforts are also being undertaken to promote organic farming.

19. Almost 50,000 Ha of area has been brought under horticulture crops and special support is being provided for activities such as honey production and floriculture. A camp office of the Tea Board of

India has been established in the State capital last year and this will give a boost to the tea-production activities in the State. An additional 900 hectares of land shall be brought under paddy-cum-fish culture which is being practised successfully in Apatani plateau. Trout fish-culture activities are being taken up in high-altitude lakes of the State and an amount of Rs.10.00 crores has been earmarked for development of fisheries potential of the State.

20. Several landmark steps were taken for streamlining the Public Distribution System in the State. The most significant amongst them was the development and launch of e-PDS software application in Tirap District for computerizing the issuance of ration cards through bio-metric identification and automation of sub-allocation of ration commodities. The application is proposed to be replicated at 18 more locations during this financial year.

One regional FCI office at the State Capital and 8 new depots have been opened at several locations and opening of three more depots is under active consideration. A total of 60,771 BPL families are availing benefit under the targeted Public Distribution System. Similarly, 4,761 and 3,800 families are availing benefit under the Annapurna Yojana and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana respectively.

Ensuring the availability of food-grains in unconnected border areas through head-load carriage continued to be a controversial issue for several years. To ensure fool-proof and timely delivery of PDS commodities to these difficult areas, my Govt. has submitted and is actively pursuing a proposal for heli-lifting of PDS commodities and I am hopeful of its early approval by the Govt. of India.

21. The real moral test of the Government is how it treats those who require it the most – the children, the elderly, the sick and physically challenged. My Govt. has set up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in all the Districts of the State, in addition to setting up of a Juvenile Home in Pasighat. The coverage under State Old Age Pension scheme has increased by more than 45% over the last year. By operationalizing 6028 Anganwadi centers, 2 lakh 16 thousand children and almost 40 thousand mothers are being provided the benefit of Supplementary Nutrition Program. Projects amount to Rs. 74.19 crores have been formulated under Multi-Sector Development Plan for 7 minority concentrated Districts of the State.

22. Arunachal Pradesh started from a very low base in the field of education. Even today, the literacy rate in the State is only 54.7% which is amongst the lowest for any State in the country. However, with the successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan over the last several years now, we have seen a marked improvement. The number of primary schools and upper primary schools has increased by 119% and 225% respectively by 2009-10 when compared to 2001-02. Enrolment in primary schools has increased by 47% and that in Upper Primary Schools by 88%. More than 6,000 new teachers have been appointed under SSA and 36 new Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been established. An amount of Rs. 13.00 crores has been earmarked for construction of teachers quarters or barracks in remote unconnected locations of the State.

100% achievement has been made under the Mid-day meal scheme thereby benefitting more than 3,400 schools and 2,00,000 children. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA) has been launched on the lines of SSA this year and the State Govt. has now adopted and is fully ready for the implementation of Right to Education (RTE) Act in the State.

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) has started functioning from its temporary site in Yupia from this academic session. To have an institution of excellence of the repute of NIT is a major achievement for the State as a whole. Work on establishment of a law college and medical college is under active persuasion.

To check the problems of teacher absenteeism and streamlining their recruitment and payment of salaries etc., my Govt has come out with a New Education Policy 2010. The salaries of SSA teachers have been substantially increased.

23. Health care is one of the highest priority areas of my Govt. We have set up 464 sub-centers, 117 primary health centers and 49 community health centers under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). More than 10,000 women have availed benefit under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and 81 basic ambulances and 4 critical care ambulances have been provided at different locations. 16 PHCs and 1 CHC have been handed over to NGOs for operation under PPP model and all these are now running on 24 X 7 basis. In spite of difficult terrain and lack of trained man-power, we have been able to achieve an Infant Mortality Rate of 32 which is lower than the national average. Sufficient funds have been provided for

purchase of emergency and life saving medicines to the Health Department and also to Deputy Commissioners and independent ADCs directly. But all these efforts of ours have not brought proportionate results due to non-availability of doctors and para-medical staff. I am hopeful that the situation will improve further once the Medical college becomes operational which will help young boys and girls from our State acquire medical degrees and subsequently work in their State.

24. The Unique Identification project is all set to be rolled out in the State from next month. The successful implementation of this project will help promote financial inclusion of all the sections of the society and also help in providing a unique identity to the poor rural masses, thereby improving their ability to access govt. services. The project will also help in plugging leakages in subsidiary oriented beneficiary schemes by checking multiple and fake identities. The computerization of births and deaths project will be operationalised in 2011-12.

25. Hydro-power has been identified as the key engine of growth for the industrial sector of the State. Till date, of the total available hydropower potential of 57,000 MW, more than 40,000 MW has been allotted to various Public Sector undertakings and Independent Power Producers for development. 95 languishing mini and micro-hydels will be revived by the end of next year under the Prime Minister's package. With this, we will add almost 80.45 MW of power potential in the four year period from 2007-2011. In

addition, the 110 MW Pare project, 600 MW Kameng project and 2000 MW Subansiri project are likely to start generation by 2013. The achievement is all the more significant as in the 35 year period from 1971-2006, we had added only 1 MW of potential per year.

26. Availability of power has been identified as a critical factor for determining the development index of a State. While we started from a very low base, we have made rapid strides to promote electrification in all the areas of the State, and in particular in rural areas. We have already covered 909 villages benefitting a population of 10,648 under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). This ambitious program targets electrification of all 3,854 villages in the State benefitting a population of 76,407 by 2011-12. In addition, more than 1300 border villages have been electrified under the Border Village Illumination Programme, including electrification of 523 villages covering 5,800 households by solar lighting equipment.

27. The work on development of Tezu airport for ATR operation is on in full swing and X-ray baggage inspection system has been installed at 4 locations in the State, with three more locations targeted shortly. However, work on the Itanagar Greenfield Airport has been delayed considerably inspite of active persuasion with the Central Govt.

28. I am happy to note that the IPR Department has provided high-end professional grade electronic equipment to all its District offices. This will bring in a qualitative difference in the dissemination

of information in the Districts and also improve the quality of news flowing from the Districts. The Department also deserves applause for tracing out the original negative of the first feature film produced in the State and converting it from celluloid film to DVD format. Archaeological exploration teams of the research department have discovered rock paintings depicting Buddhist culture at Mechuka, 400 year old mud Gonpa and megaliths in West Kameng District. The Arunachal Pradesh Press Club Building has been renovated and Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been instituted as the Journalist Welfare Fund for the working journalists.

29. In spite of tremendous scope in agro and forest based industries, food-processing, handlooms and handicrafts, mineral resources, electronics etc., the State is lagging behind in industrialization. To break out of the vicious circle of a weak existing base and lack of socio-economic development, my Govt. has made concerted efforts towards promoting industrialization. 99% VAT exemption has been granted to eligible units under the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Tax Incentives Order 2010. An Integrated Infrastructure Development Center and the first Entrepreneurship Development Institute are being set up. Mask-making at Tawang and Food Processing at Dirang have been included under cluster approach for development of micro and small industries. My Govt. has also increased the stipend of ITI trainees from Rs. 350/- to Rs. 550/- per month.

30. The process of separation of judiciary from the executive has been initiated by setting up two courts of District and Sessions Judge at Yupia and Tezu. In addition, 13 District Court buildings have been set up and 3 are under construction.

31. My Govt. has always maintained that Arunachal Pradesh has the potential of becoming the next tourism capital of the country. This year, for speeding up implementation of tourism projects, a special engineering wing in the Tourism Department was created. Although the number of foreign tourists visiting the State have gone up by more than 12 times and domestic tourists by more than 5 times, I still feel we have not realized our desired potential. In the coming year, we will be promoting Public-Private partnership projects in the Tourism Sector. The Department will also continue to support the celebration of various fairs and festivals in the State. Pasighat Centenary Celebrations is another crowning achievement of the Department during this year. I am also happy to share with you that the Department is setting up State-of-the-Art tourism information counters at Guwahati and Kolkata airports.

32. The Department of Legal Metrology and Consumer Affairs booked more than 300 cases for violation of weights and measures laws. Under consumer protection, the disposal of cases in District Forums stood at a combine figure of 87% and that in the State Commission at 92%. Digital systems of weights and measures are being introduced by the Department.

33. The Department of Panchayati Raj proposes to construct 1905 Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras in the State at a total cost of Rs. 190.50 crores over next four years. The SATCOM e-learning project is being implemented at Panchayat level with an investment of Rs. 2.22 crores. Laying special focus on rural areas, my Govt. has constructed 19,561 new houses and upgraded 7,879 houses under the Indira Awas Yojana. 302 Self-help groups and 5009 individual swarozgaris have been provided assistance under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). To provide rural employment and also create durable assets in rural areas, more than 1 lakh 18 thousand households were provided employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme and 2,840 works have so far been completed under this scheme.

34. Jan-Suvidha Centers have been set-up at 11 locations in the State and computerization projects are being undertaken for Raj Bhawan, Planning Department, Social Welfare Department and Department of Economics and Statistics. The Department of IT is also reviving the 56 existing Community Information Centers (CICs) in the State and also setting up 200 Community Service Centers (CSCs) to bridge the digital divide and provide internet services to the common masses at affordable costs.

35. Sportspersons from the State brought laurels by distinguished performance at International Level, in particular in fields such as weightlifting and mountaineering. To harness potential sporting talent amongst rural youth, more than Rs. 13.00 crores have been

allocated under the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Abhiyaan (PYKKA) till date. More than Rs. 6.00 crores has been provided to the Department for organizing Sports and Games activities right upto the Circle / Panchayat Level and for setting up multi-purpose sports complexes at various locations. A comprehensive Sports Policy for the State is under formulation.

36. The Department of Urban Development has launched Municipal Solid Waste Management Projects at Itanagar and three more District HQs. In addition, Rs. 209.75 crores has been sanctioned for Basic Urban Infrastructure Development Projects in 18 towns of the State. Special urban development projects worth Rs. 234.05 crores have been sanctioned under JNNURM for the mission city of Itanagar. 23 State-of-the-Art low floor buses have been procured for the State Capital and 14 major capital roads are being given a facelift. The Karsingsa Housing Project has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 45.15 crores under the Basic Services for Urban Poor component.

37. The Department of Public Health Engineering proposes to provide safe drinking water supply to all habitations by 2011-12 at a total cost of more than Rs. 460.00 crores. More than 60% of these habitations have already been covered. A proposal to provide drinking water facilities to blocks along the International Border is under active persuasion with the Planning Commission. Under Total Sanitation campaign, the Department has constructed 52,723 individual toilets and 3759 school toilets.

38. Dear friends, last year, from this very rampart, I had given the call for making 2010, a year of '**Clean, green and Plastic-Free**' Arunachal Pradesh. I was elated to see the response to the call and the dedicated efforts being put in for facelift of the Capital and as well as District Head-quarters. I, in particular, greet all the Deputy Commissioners who took the primary role in this campaign and took a lead by organizing social-service campaigns in their District offices. Several District Administrations regulated the use of immensely damaging plastic bags within their jurisdiction. I am sanguine that this enthusiastic response will continue in the coming year as well.

39. I am quite perturbed at the increasing number of bandh-calls being given by petty organizations for unimportant reasons which brings the entire economic activity and governance in the State to a stand-still. 'Bandhs' can never be a substitute for meaningful dialogue. While appealing to such organizations to engage in a peaceful dialogue for the redressal of their genuine demands, I would also like to tell them that in future, such bandh-calls shall be strongly and strictly dealt with. I would also appeal to all my fellow citizens to not allow such organizations to hold them to ransom through their calls.

40. The continued acts of extortion and violence in two districts of the State and the attempts by certain banned organizations to spread the tentacles of insurgency in the foothill areas adjoining

Assam is also a cause of concern. The killing of 8 innocent Government employees, including a physically challenged person, at the Assam-Arunachal Border at Seijosa immensely pained me. The situation in Khonsa is becoming tense again with frequent Inter-factional clashes between various outlawed organizations. While fighting the nefarious designs of these organizations is the primary responsibility of security forces, it is also the obligation of each one of us to support them in their efforts. Timely supply of information and non-cooperation with such criminals can greatly augment the combat capabilities of our forces.

41. Before I conclude therefore, I call upon all of you to resolve to make 2011, an year of '**Bandh-free and Violence-Free**' Arunachal Pradesh. Let us decide to decimate the roots of insurgency and violence before it causes permanent damage to our State. Let us deal with the anti-social elements, miscreants and terrorists with an iron fist but cover the fist with a velvet glove while dealing with our innocent citizens affected by such acts of violence. With an iron fist, we will pulverize the enemy and with a velvet glove, we will protect and preserve our citizenry.

42. While concluding, I express my deep gratitude to all the officers and officials of the State Govt. and the Central Govt., military and para-military forces and other organizations working in the State in a spirit of dedicated and selfless service. I also commend the public representatives, our Panchayati Raj representatives, Gaon Burhas, youth, students, NGOs, friends from the media and all the people of

Arunachal Pradesh for their role in promoting development in the State. I congratulate all the exemplary individuals who have been honoured with State Medals today in recognition of the meritorious services put in by them in the discharge of their duties. The State Police, CRPF, ITBP, NCC, Scouts and Guides as well as students had a smart turn-out and demonstrated a very high standard of drill during the parade. The members of different cultural troupes and school children of various schools put up a beautiful and vibrant cultural show. My appreciation is due to each one of them.

43. I will be completing three years of service to this State as its first citizen tomorrow. For the love and warmth that has flown to me and my wife from you over these years, I extend a personal and heart-felt gratitude to each one of you and am hopeful that this bond of love will only grow stronger in the years to come.

44. Once again, best wishes and greetings to all my brothers and sisters of the State and the country. Let each one of us be conscious of the fact that we are the citizens of a great nation with a great past and a glorious future.

45. Jai Arunachal. Jai Hind.