



SPEECH

OF

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GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION

OF

REPUBLIC DAY 2012

At

INDIRA GANDHI PARK, ITANAGAR

My dear brothers and sisters of Arunachal Pradesh

1. On this auspicious and joyous occasion of our 63rd Republic Day, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all of you who have gathered here to be a part of today's celebrations. I also greet all my fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh, who I am sure, are celebrating this sacred day with equal enthusiasm in their Districts and sub-divisions, all over the State.
2. As I complete four years in office and this is my fourth republic day address to you from these ramparts, My wife and I will always remain grateful for the love and affection we have received from all of you. Both of us are sanguine that this relationship will only strengthen and grow in the times to come. For us it is – **“once an Arunachalee, always an Arunachalee.”**
3. Today, let us remember and recall the numerous sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and valiant soldiers, who laid down their lives first for the cause of winning us independence and then for preserving and strengthening this precious gift of freedom. On behalf of everyone present here, I express deepest gratitude and pay them homage with highest respects. Let us also spare a moment and a thought for all the visionary leaders who led India on its path to freedom and then, through their collective wisdom, compiled an exceptionally brilliant document – the Constitution of India, which has been the guiding beacon and the unifying factor in our journey as a nation.
4. What our great nation is today, is because of its people – the farmers, the labourers, the teachers, the doctors, the engineers, the numerous other silent workers who are contributing, in their own unique way in the building of this great democracy. This day belongs to each one of us. While they engage in economic development, they are ably provided a secure environment by our armed forces, our para-military forces, the State Police and our border-guards whom I salute in highest reverence today. They are guiding us along in realizing our dream of a nation *Where the Mind is without fear and the head is held high.*
5. As all of you know, the year that went-by was one of the most challenging year for our State. We lost Shri Dorjee Khanduji a distinguished son of the soil and a dynamic Chief Minister in a tragic helicopter crash. I pay homage to him once again today and recall his unmatched efforts for realizing his dream of a self-reliant, vibrant and developed Arunachal Pradesh. We also faced many social disturbances which had the potential to grow into full-blown conflicts that could have pushed Arunachal Pradesh back by several years in its developmental efforts. However, as a result of the tremendous perseverance, courage, fortitude and commitment displayed by all of you, we were able to sail through these difficult times. I commend every Arunachali for showing immense maturity and upholding our time-honoured traditions of peaceful existence highlighted by fraternity amongst tribes and our secular approach.

6. We have a new Govt. and it is time for new beginnings, new commitments and renewed efforts to secure the goals that we have set for ourselves. I am happy to state that within a short span only, the Govt ably led by Shri Nabam Tukiji and his Council of Ministers has set forth its vision, its priorities and its development agenda. I would like to share this agenda in brief with you today.
7. While the physical infrastructure development projects are more or less on track in the State, there is a significant gap in the potential and present development levels of socio-economic infrastructure. To address this gap, my Govt. would lay focused attention on capacity building and employment generation amongst youth. A holistic approach based on a complete paradigm shift would be developed for agriculture and horticulture sector to enable maximum returns for the actual cultivators. High priority would be given to Sports sector as we have realized the potential of our youth in this field who have won laurels for us at the International Level. Tourism would be promoted as an engine of growth through new projects in hitherto unexplored areas. Rural development would be promoted through integrated socio-economic model village projects which exploit the natural talents of village communities and provide them employment at their doorsteps. Education and Health Sectors would continue to receive top priority but we would shift the focus from construction of buildings to providing quality healthcare and education and making available sufficient and qualified doctors and teachers.
8. My Govt. has recently adopted the Public Private Partnership Policy 2011 and this path-breaking initiative will open up the gates for development of various infrastructure sectors, both physical and social, through much-needed infusion of resources and managerial capability of the private sector, in tandem with the overall vision of the State Govt. In the years to come, dear Arunachalis, you will see the tangible benefits that will flow to the State through the adoption of this policy.
9. On the law and order front, the extortion activities by UG groups in Tirap and Changlang and frequent bandh-calls in the capital complex continue to be major causes of concern.
10. However, the recent developments on this front have been promising. A massive package has been announced by the Central Govt. for Tirap and Changlang districts which not only caters for exhaustive strengthening of the existing police set-up but also for recruitment of almost 2,000 youth in the Civil Police from these two Districts. This single step will have an exemplary turn-around effect on the insurgency situation there. The first battalion of Arunachal Scouts has been raised successfully and we are actively pursuing the raising of the second battalion already. As you are aware our Army has plans for considerable additional deployment in our State, and setting up of new formation headquarters and units has already been initiated at several locations. The State Cabinet has recently approved setting up of the Forest Protection Force which will mainly be deployed along the Assam border and will help us strengthen and guard this sensitive

border. Additional deployment of border guarding forces along the International Border to check cross-border movement of insurgents is also on the cards.

11. Violent and forcible bandhs have no place in a democracy and by no definition can they be considered democratic means of protest. They can never be a replacement for dialogue and negotiations. In future, the Govt. will deal with all such anti-social and anti-people activities with a stern hand.
12. I am happy to note that most of our prestigious PM package projects are on track. The first major project – re-operationalization of ALG at Vijaynagar was completed and inaugurated recently by me. The new Civil Secretariat building, the Itanagar water supply project and the railway line to the State capital will also be functional by the during this year. The 110 MW Pare hydroelectric project is targeted for completion by August 2013. Work for many stretches of the Trans-Arunachal highway has been awarded and one can see hectic construction activity along this route. Under the flagship PMGSY programme, 3032 km of rural roads have been constructed to provide connectivity to 502 habitations.
13. With the coming up of the new 1,000 capacity convention centre at IG Park under the Urban Development Department, the long felt need of such a facility in our State Capital will be addressed. I also congratulate the Department for the good work they are doing on the model roads in Itanagar city.
14. The extent and coverage of Public Distribution System is proposed to be strengthened substantially during this year by opening 34 new storage godowns at various locations under different schemes of the Central and State Govt. Three new FCI depots at Aalo, Yingkiong and Anjaw are likely to be opened soon and the e-PDS project will be replicated at 18 locations in the State after its successful roll-out in Tirap District.
15. Several of our brethren living in remote and unconnected areas don't have access to salt at an affordable price because of the high costs of transportation through head-load. I am happy to share with you that my Govt. will soon launch a new scheme to provide substantial funds to the Deputy Commissioners this year for ensuring round-the-year availability of salt at affordable rates at these locations.
16. Under the RGGVY scheme, the Dept of Power has so far provided connections to 1037 of the 2129 un-electrified villages of the State. In addition, free service connection has been provided to 19,586 BPL households in the State. I am sanguine that the prestigious project of the Department – the 132 KV Trans Arunachal Power grid is likely to be sanctioned soon by the DoNER Ministry.
17. By the end of the 12th Five year Plan, the State is likely to add almost 13,000 MW of additional hydro-power capacity. Once we achieve this, the annual revenue to the State from sale of free power would be of the order of Rs. 3,000 crores annually which is almost as much as our entire Plan size as of now. Such strong resource accrual will open up windows of opportunities to us for financing development of our social sectors like education and health.

18. The drop-out rate in the State at primary level has reduced drastically to 4.89% as a result of dedicated efforts of Elementary Education Directorate. As you are aware, the State has already adopted the Right to Education (RTE) Act and started providing free school uniforms and text-books to the school students. This year, funds to the extent of Rs. 25.00 crores have been provided for implementing RTE Act and Rs. 25.00 crores for setting up of additional schools, class-rooms and teachers quarters. Several teachers' trainings programs were organized by the Department thereby raising the level and quality of teaching although much still needs to be done on this front. Also, the result of Class 10th and 12th exams in the State in 2010-11 has been 72% and 87.7% which is a distinct improvement over previous years but there is scope to do even better.

19. Four new model degree colleges and seven new polytechnics will be established in the State in the current financial year. A new Law college at Jote has also been notified. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) has already started functioning successfully from its temporary site at Yupia and will soon be shifted to its permanent site at Kampo. Such initiatives are being undertaken in the State for the first time and will make a world of difference in the opportunities available to our young boys and girls in getting quality education within their State. The stipend of ITI trainees has been enhanced and more than 250 young entrepreneurs have been provided benefit under the PMGY employment generation program.

20. Our health indicators too have shown marginal improvements. In 2010-11, Rs. 18.00 crores was provided for construction of accommodation for doctors in far-flung areas. As on date, we have 286 functional sub-centres, 117 PHCs and 48 CHCs in the State. The Govt. has recently started the process for creating additional posts of medical doctors and specialists to cover all District hospitals. As you all know, the prestigious project for upgradation of Naharlagun State Hospital has been sanctioned by the Central Govt. and this upgradation will be followed by setting up of a medical college.

21. Horticulture will be an engine of growth for the State's economy in the years to come. I am happy to share with you that the total production of horticulture produce in the State in 2010-11 was more than 3 lakh Metric tonnes, which is an increase of almost 200% over the last year's production. The area at present under horticulture products is 85 thousand hectares and the department proposes to add an additional 25 thousand hectares during the current year. A stupendous achievement indeed. Well done. The food crop production has also recorded impressive growth rate of 8%. During the 12th Five Year Plan, the State Govt. will lay increased stress and focus on intensification of cash crops, double cropping, market linkages and cold storage facilities.

22. The Department of Land Management has started the process of preparation of Cadastral maps of all administrative Headquarters in a phased manner. This is again a first of its kind initiative in the State. Three centres – Aalo, Ziro and Capital Complex have already been brought under the cadastral survey and eleven more centres will be covered during the current financial year.
23. For the protection and preservation of livestock, a new subsidiary based beneficiary oriented scheme whereby support for purchase and maintenance of livestock will be provided on 80:20 sharing basis has been launched by the State Govt. under its State Plan this year. Besides, upto 20% funds in specific Border Blocks have been ear-marked for this purpose under BADP.
24. Our State enjoys a natural advantage in tourism sector and to exploit this advantage, a master plan for tourism infrastructure development in the State has been prepared. The Institute of Hotel Management is likely to start functioning at Bandardewa from next financial year onwards. I have recently inaugurated a very aesthetically designed new tourist information counter at Guwahati which will certainly help in increasing the tourist inflow into our State. The number of approved tourist circuits in the State has recently been increased to eleven from seven. All these efforts have led to a substantial increase in the number of tourists visiting the State – from 93 thousands in 2007 to 2 lakhs 27 thousands in 2010. 250% increase.
25. The State Govt. has also initiated the process of strengthening of statistical systems in the State through two flagship projects. Computerized registration of births and deaths will be started in the twin cities of Itanagar and Naharlagun on a pilot basis within this financial year. The two recently announced flagship schemes of the State Govt. – the CM Talent Award scheme and the CM Disability Pension Scheme have also been launched successfully this year in all Districts.
26. Sportspersons from the State brought laurels by distinguished performance at international and national levels, in particular in fields such as weightlifting, badminton, karate and mountaineering. I would like to mention in particular, the praiseworthy achievements of our two young lady mountaineers – Tine Mena and Anshu Jamsenpa. An amount of Rs. 20.00 crores has been provided to the Department for strengthening the Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy and for setting up multi-purpose sports complexes in various Districts under SPA this year.
27. Considering its impressive GDP growth rate in 2009-10 which was the highest in the country, praise-worthy utilization of plan resources, third party monitoring systems and other path-breaking initiatives, the State was awarded the prestigious IBN-7 Diamond award by CNN group and subsequently, the best performing State in Small States Category by the India Today group. These awards are testimonies to the collective efforts put in by all of you in taking the State to these heights of development. These awards are however, mere stepping stones to many such accolades that we will receive in future.

28. 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 and Burhis, youth, students, NGOs, friends from the media and all the people of Arunachal Pradesh for their role in promoting development in the State. I would like to take this opportunity to express our feeling of satisfaction and fulfilment. Finally 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.

29. While conveying my best wishes and greetings to all of you, I am reminded of the immortal lines by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong
Men who for truth and honour's sake
Stand fast and suffer long
Brave men who work while others sleep
Who dare where others fly
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky

30. Jai Arunachal. Jai Hind.