



ADDRESS

OF

SHRI S.K. SINGH

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

AT THE

**COMBINED CONFERENCE OF
DCs AND SPs**

**AT
STATE BANQUET HALL,
ITANAGAR**

ON

17TH JULY, 2006

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR AT THE
COMBINED CONFERENCE OF DCs & SPs ON
17TH JULY 2006 AT ITANAGAR**

1. Our distinguished & long-serving Chief Minister Shri Apang, Members of his Cabinet present here, Chief Secretary, DGP, Commissioners, Secretaries and my dear colleagues, the Deputy Commissioners and SPs.
2. It is a joy, at long last, to be able to greet all of you, here, after such a long interval. I have been looking forward to such a meeting of our State's senior bureaucracy, our field officers, the DCs & SPs of the districts in the presence of our political leadership. Last August, when the model code of governance was notified, I had suggested to Mr. Bam to organize a meeting of DCs & SPs so as to explain the objectives of that notification in a proper perspective, and also to urge & sensitize the field executives to effectively implement the model code of good governance.
3. We need to inform all our State's field civil servants how much our society depends on their role in the field. Our DCs are vested with enormous powers and authority, especially as they function also as the District and Sessions Judges. They are also the instruments & levers for economic growth, and social change. All development schemes in the districts are organized and authorized by them. Their tasks are arduous indeed.
4. The foremost task of the DCs & SPs has to be to ensure maintenance of law & order in the State; for peace and tranquility are the two basic and prime pre-requisites for our society's accelerated development. In our pursuit of peace & harmony no unruly elements can or should be allowed to work against the unity and integrity of the State and the people of Arunachal Pradesh.
5. The agenda for sustainable human development is basic to all the tasks of governance. The quality of governance is the primary factor behind the most

remarkable development successes in human history. This factor when present is paramount; and when absent causes the greatest disappointment for numerous developing nations & states which then get labeled as ‘failed states & systems.’

6. The world is yearning for, gasping for, clean, pure air and clean drinkable water. God has provided our Pradesh with beautiful clean air, great greenery & plentiful water both from our huge rivers system, and Himalayan streams which are pure melting snows. The world envies our greenery, forest wealth & beauty of our bountiful crop of flowers & fruits. Every time I go to Delhi & call on the President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, he enquires if we are doing enough for bio-diversity in our State, whether we are being careful about the ecology of the State. If one were to be hundred per cent truthful one would have to tell him that there is in our Pradesh no urban planning, more and more of our towns are being built as per no known municipal regulatory system. We have no rules or laws to govern our regulatory municipal system. That we do not have any system for garbage disposal, or sewerage system, & that bulk of our solid garbage somehow or the other finds its way into our sylvan & beautiful streams & rivers; & much of the bulk garbage adorns our agricultural fields for the entire world to smell, inspect & observe! This kind of lack of a regulatory system is hurting the health & hygiene of our children, who are the future generation, and these lapses would ultimately result in a much greater outlay of resources to meet the responsibilities of health services delivery.

7. The tasks and challenges which face a strategically located, but non-industrialised state & therefore, underdeveloped like our Arunachal Pradesh, are gigantic and demand close cooperation and interaction between the people and the Government. Competent & skilled administrators by themselves cannot perhaps solve all the problems of a democratic polity. Apart from their knowledge & skills, which need to be continuously updated, the will to work and perform and achieve is essential. In other words, if a public servant lacks integrity, or is de-motivated, he can make no effective contribution, and will be seen as a burden on the system. It is, therefore, important that in a State such as ours senior members of the Civil and Police services are motivated by a high moral code, better morale and professional competence to back up their ethical & efficiency-related value system. The image of the entire government gets judged through the people visible in governance, by the values pursued and implemented.

8. The basic objective of our Government has been to provide an efficient and responsive administration. Efficient governance requires efficient institutions. The efficiency and effectiveness of institutions, in turn, comes to depend on the delivery mechanisms and the supportive framework of rules & procedures that are adopted by our senior Civil servants. Successful implementation of development programmes requires adequate funds, appropriate policy framework, and an institutional capacity to deliver. In this the role of our political leadership is naturally of primary importance. But the availability of resources is not a sufficient condition. The determining factor is the formulation of need-based schemes whose efficient delivery system naturally depends on the quality of human beings who run the machine and utilize available resources for devising the delivery systems.
9. During our NEFA days we had a dedicated band of civil servants belonging to the Indian Frontier Administrative Service with high morale, personnel that enjoyed mountaineering, and several adventure sports. These were gentlemen of undoubted integrity & character who rendered selfless service to enable our State and people attain what we are today. Unfortunately, with the passing of time our work culture has not improved perceptibly, perhaps deteriorated somewhat, and consequently, the quality of governance too has slipped.
10. The traditional system of administration of those NEFA days required even senior officers of that era to undertake extended tours which involved walking for days altogether, as roads did not exist & jeeps were but rare gadgets. This got them to acquire closer understanding of the people in rural areas and their problems. Unfortunately, that system of interactive functioning has fallen into disuse, as more roads & motor vehicles are now available for our administrators. Even the middle level and senior field functionaries of our State of many forests & multiple indigenous ethnicities of our rich pattern of tribal ethnicity & sparse hutments on the mountain side. The needs and special requirements of our farmer, the villager and the disadvantaged are crying for a closer acquaintance with the political & bureaucratic elites.
11. I have been emphasizing the need to maintain close monitoring of programme implementation in our State as also at the district level. I have been underscoring the necessity for more frequent inspections of our administrative machinery and

governance at various levels. The routine quarterly, half yearly and annual office inspections and submission of inspection reports in prescribed formats on a regular basis needs to be reinforced and made mandatory at different levels.

12. We must also ensure that there is an institutional memory maintained by each department in each local office. Very often one finds that the officials do not maintain master folders of important administrative circulars and precedents. Some offices do not even remember where & how such circulars and instructions are filed. Therefore, I have been underlining the training needs for officials at various levels.
13. All of us need to be aware that Arunachal Pradesh is in Zone-5 of the earthquake prone zones, which makes high-rise modern buildings highly vulnerable to earthquake damage. Our traditional houses made of timber, bamboo, thatch etc. are lightweights, that can withstand earthquakes if the wooden frame is properly designed and in any case cause few casualties even if they collapse. But many multistoried concrete buildings are coming up in urban and semi urban areas without proper earthquake safety measures. Before it is too late all of you administrators need to intervene and ensure a proper building code in the state to avert possibility of disasters. I am happy to note that the State Government had organized a number of disaster management training programmes at various levels during the last one year partly on my advice, but mostly due to our CM's enthusiasm to work out such insurance.
14. Corruption is the most endemic and entrenched manifestation of poor governance in any organization. In order to prevent any corruption all prevalent institutional arrangements need to be reviewed, and revised, so as to make those wielding authority, too, are made accountable, their functioning made more transparent and subjected to social audit, with a view to minimize the area of their discretionary decisions. All such procedures, laws and regulations that breed corruption and come in the way of efficient delivery systems have to be eliminated.
15. We have huge natural resources and tremendous development potential in the areas of hydro-power, tourism, horticulture, floriculture, forest and mineral based

industries in the State. All these require proper infrastructure development like road, telecommunication, air and railway transport systems. Special economic zones may have to be identified and an investment climate needs to be created so that large investors from outside are attracted to participate in the economic development of our state and more internal revenue could be generated. This also requires to be backed by a conducive land and industrial policy in the State. Since the day I took over as the Head of State I have been making conscious efforts to promote infrastructure development particularly road communication in the interior and border areas. I have been able to create some awareness of these needs through meetings and discussion in Delhi as well as in our own state. I would like that the concrete proposals of road projects submitted to the Government of India are persistently followed up for implementation in right earnest and in a time bound manner. We have been trying to have an Airport constructed in the vicinity of our State capital, Itanagar as early as possible to provide regular air connectivity in the State. It looks like that this goal may be achieved in the next two years or so.

16. My area of concern has also been the eradication of poverty through effective implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes in the state. We do still have 41% of rural population in the below poverty line (BPL) level. We must make concerted efforts to reduce this poverty ratio. The Deputy Commissioners who are at the helm of affairs in districts have an onerous responsibility. One should try to learn from China where the poverty ratio has been brought down to 3% now from 30% in 1978 due to economic liberalization policy.
17. The district administration should also gear up their efforts to generate more revenue from all possible sources such as Power, Forest, Mines and Minerals, Land, Industries, Transport etc. so that the state is able to meet its required ratio of 25% or 50% development funding against many of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). They should ensure proper check of any revenue leakages.
18. I would not wish to take up more of your limited time. My best wishes for meaningful deliberations & purposeful decision making by all of you.
19. Before I conclude, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chief Minister & the Chief Secretary for holding this meeting and enabling me to share a few of my random thoughts with all of you.

20. The little we have been able to do in this context is puny indeed before the undone vast. So let us proceed with humility & deliberation, also a great deal of caution. Our people are sensitive & shrewd & they are watching both our words & our deeds. Let us recall the two lessons which Gandhi, that frail, half-clad Faqir tried to teach us. “Satya” or the Truth which implies total honesty of purpose, in every way including in One’s every day business dealings; and secondly “Ahimsa”, or totally peaceable and non-muscular behaviour in one’s day to day dealings; no threats, no extortions, no pressures, no violence, totally transparent business-dealings. Gandhi was our ultimate ‘Bania’ or business-man. He knew what made good business-men and good businesses prosper, and how to attract outside Capital, how to advertise Profitability. We can forget these lessons even today at our own peril.

Let us all be good Banias ourselves.
