



ADDRESS

OF

SHRI S.K. SINGH

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE

56TH REPUBLIC DAY

JANUARY 26,2005

My fellow Arunachalees,

1. On this auspicious and historic day, as we celebrate our 56th Republic Day, I extend to you all my good wishes for prosperity and success, the growing resilience of this Pradesh, and happiness for all our people. Fifty-five years ago, on this day, India defined itself as a free sovereign Republic: Egalitarian, Secular and Democratic. Our founding fathers were determined to ensure political, economic and social justice for future generations of Indians.

2. This year too, as in past years, this should have been a day of unalloyed rejoicing and celebration. The recent unprecedented Tsunami, and the devastation and tragedy that it brought Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, has saddened us all, and erased some of our exuberance. Thousands of deaths, destruction of thousands of crores worth property, the wailing of orphaned children all this has pained the nation and affected us. Recognizing that life and vitality do always overcome death and tragedy, we need to be proud of the determined, spontaneous and vigorous response of our people and Government, to this call to greater effort to rebuild and reconstruct lives and families and homes. We have provided relief to victims, survivors and communities that were crippled. Our armed forces, especially the Indian Navy and Air Force carried help and relief to locations, not just within the country but also in the near abroad, neighbouring South Asian Lands. Our people and Government in Arunachal Pradesh joined in the national effort to provide solace and to help.

3. Usually this is our day of joy; this year also of challenge. We gratefully recall the sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters and unsung martyrs of an earlier generation, who suffered and labored so that we should be free and sovereign today. For this we remember Gandhiji's leadership with reverence and gratitude. Let us re-dedicate ourselves today to Gandhiji's ideals of Truth and Ahimsa. And let this day also be for us the day of introspection, for no self-improvement is possible without working at our own many shortcomings and failures, that need to be overcome.

4. The last 55 years have indeed been years of progress for the nation, in several fields: social, economic, political, scientific and technological. Celebrating our achievements, we must never be complacent. The road ahead is a long one, and we remain determined to achieve eradication of poverty, illiteracy and poor health from this land.

5. All of us in this Maidan, must recognize that Arunachal Pradesh has to be the focus of our special attention and endeavour . One important task is to make certain that the fruits of development and progress, literacy and better health services, reach those living in the remotest, distant mountainous areas of our State.

6. Soon after assuming office, I set out to visit diverse corners of our State : Tawang, Ziro, Miao-Namdapha, Yingkiong-Jengging. These visits helped to inform me better about problems of our land and our people; about the topography, environment, biodiversity, difficulties and problems facing our compatriots in the countryside. Thus I saw too and experienced for myself the beauty of Arunachal, and the nobility and dignity of its citizens. Our Chief Minister, his Cabinet Colleagues, MLAs, Researchers, Educationists, Artists, Artisans; bureaucratic and medical fraternities indeed all cross-sections of society have been supportive of my efforts. Thus I have gained some idea of our problems, possibilities and potential. With firm and resolute will, we need to think Big and think Bold, retaining our confidence in our own capacity and will to overcome problems and to achieve that which we had been unable to attempt until now.

7. During my recent visit to the National Capital, Delhi I was able to report to The President, Prime Minister, members of the Central Cabinet, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, and the concerned officials, on how I see Arunachal's problems and strengths. They were responsive and

sympathetic, and understood our need for adequate financial support for fulfilling our desire to structure greater connectivity and better communications speedily in our State. I have merely tried to supplement the efforts made by our Chief Minister over the years.

8. **Rapid electrification of rural areas of Arunachal through installing small and medium size hydel projects is easily attainable and to my mind, an urgent requirement for our people. This will have a positive impact on agriculture, fruiticulture and floriculture in our State. Our geography demands that our rural electrification be recognized as an element that is essential also for strengthening our national security in border areas and villages. This became the core theme of my discussions with my erstwhile colleagues of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

9. **Let me now list, for your consideration, a few projects, capable of easing our burdens enabling us together to aspire for a better future, with greater optimism:**

- i. Remote Village Electrification Programme;**
- ii. Developing and building the State Power Grid connecting all major load centers, generating stations and the regional grid;**
- iii. Establishing new Industrial Training Institutes at Miao and Yupia;**
- iv. Upgrading the existing Rural Industrial Development Centre to become a full Institute of Industrial Training at Dirang;**
- v. Pursuit of the objectives of poverty alleviation projects.**
- vi. Providing special incentives for adult literacy programme and cooked Mid-Day Meal for School Children;**
- vii. Improve and refine programmes under the industrial Technology Mission and Swabhiman Rojgar Yojana in the Horticulture Sector;**
- viii. To insist that all Deputy Commissioners and BDOs collaborate in the work of strengthening the growth of Community Information Centres throughout Arunachal Pradesh.**

- ix. **Push, on a war footing, our State's road construction projects.**
- x. **Finishing our cadastral survey of land throughout the State.**

10. **I congratulate the Arunachal University for commencing this year their diploma courses in Computer Science, and in Mass Communication. The Arunachal Poly-Technic College too has added courses in their academic and practical streams in Electronic and Electrical Engineering; Automobile Engineering; Costume Design and Garment Technology; Herbal remedies and Cosmetology. These were added to the existing streams such as Information Technology; Tourism and Hotel management etc. We must now make every effort to attain the Deemed University Status for the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology.**

11. **Our State shares borders with the Kingdom of Bhutan, Republic of Myanmar and the Peoples Republic of China. The Islamic Republic of Bangladesh too is a near- proximate neighbour, even though their border does not physically touch our State. Arunachal therefore, has certain special interests, requirements and cares. Our State needs always to remain mindful of the special requirements and interests of our State Police, our NCC Cadets, Paramilitary Forces, Assam Rifles and ITBP. On this day let us join to salute and greet the Officers and Jawans of all these forces, and particularly and specially our gallant Defence Forces stationed in Arunachal, standing guard on our international borders.**

12. **Our State has been urging the Centre to help us resolve expeditiously the border issue with Assam; the Chakma-Hajong refugee issue; and assist our efforts to attain early conversion of the Arunachal University into a Central University.**

13. **All of us need to support our Chief Minister's persistent efforts for ensuring human, financial and technological resources, so as to realize our objectives and help Arunachal Pradesh to attain its full potential. The hydel projects will help Arunachal's Horticulture, Agriculture, floriculture Animal Husbandry, Small Scale**

Industries, Tourism; also facilitate industrialization of our State. We have the possibility of opening up border trade with the neighbouring countries whose borders abut on our own. Market possibilities grow only with marketing opportunities, and for attaining these we require much greater and more sophisticated connectivity. This State, therefore, has to provide with itself with an infrastructure appropriate to our market possibilities and opportunities. Border Security checkpoints need to become loops in the chain of border trade. Arunachal needs to reassure our neighborhood and the world, also rest of the country, that we are able and ready to offer ourselves to a performance audit in our most significant areas of functioning, specially road building and hydel project sectors. Without development in these two sectors our State cannot attain visibility, which alone can lead to expansion and growth of tourism and strengthen market forces in our State.

14. The world is moving towards greater globalization and economic reform. Arunachal cannot ignore this. Outmoded concepts of communalism, casteism, regionalism and tribal antagonisms have no longer any place in the lives of our citizens, particularly the youth of this State. We must recognize that, whatever artificial differences separate one Indian from another must be eschewed as negative, and all that unites all Indians must strengthen our national solidarity, today and for the future. It is this that which we need to aspire for and embrace. The ambience of tolerance, harmony, peace and unity has been the path traditionally sought and pursued by the people of Arunachal. Without that tradition of harmony we could never have become what we are today, an oasis of calm and beauty in a large area of discord. We must understand that no material wealth can be sought, nor profits made, except in a climate of peace and stability.

15. With your help and blessings we must strive to improve the quality of life in our State, without losing sight of our traditional values, particularly the values of tribal vigour, honesty and honour. Let us recall that this was what our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru never wanted to lose sight of. Like many of us in this

Maidan, perhaps Nehru too believed in dreaming of all that is good and beautiful on this Earth:

**“ There is a dreamtime,
A land of fish and stars –
It is for these
That we have come
To live on the Earth”**

JAI HIND