



ADDRESS

OF

SHRI S.K. SINGH

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE

57th Republic Day

26TH JANUARY 2006

My fellow Arunachalees,

1. Fifty-six years ago, on this day, the people of India gave unto themselves a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic, and a Parliamentary Government. The founding Fathers of our Constitution wanted to ensure that future generations of Indians should never want for political, economic, and social justice.

2. We need to thank them for their foresight and for their capacity to dream purposefully on our behalf.

3. For India's freedom, and many other bounties, the one man we need to thank, is the Father of our nation, Gandhiji. On anniversaries such as this one, we pay homage to him, and to the band of martyrs who remained his followers while he lived, and even after his assassination by an ungrateful young Hindu, one of our country-men. Many went to prison, courted jail and selflessly, cheerfully sacrificed even their lives, so that you and I and our children may live as free men and women. I suggest that all of us rededicate ourselves to the Mahatma's ideals of Truth and

Ahimsa. I hope you understand that no self-improvement is possible without each one of us labouring to erase his or her many shortcomings and failures. Introspection alone can help us to work at self improvement. May this Republic Day be for all of us, our festival of joy and celebration, also of serious and sincere introspection.

4. These past fifty-six years of the Republic have enabled us to attain some significant achievements. We are now self sufficient in producing food for all our countrymen, including for our expanding population. Our industrial growth has been comprehensive, and its quality, variety and sophistication have drawn appreciation, even compliments. The nation has shown the ability to design, manufacture and produce technological and innovative items of quality and sophistication. In certain areas of information technology we have emerged world leaders; assisted by our ability to programme and create software. We need to be humble and to recognize that several nations, some much smaller than ourselves are able also to produce I.T. hardware, a field into

which we are moving but with great caution. We have acquired the capacity to innovate and create concepts in genetic engineering and bio-technology. In several of these areas we have had a record of solid and consistent achievement. Our teaching and research institutions of technology and science are the envy of the world. We are being invited by several friendly countries to help them in establishing similar institutions. Our economy's annual rate of growth is already the second highest in the world. With a little additional effort this country could be much further ahead on the road to eliminate unemployment. But what about Arunachal Pradesh? The nation is poised to eradicate illiteracy, and we here in this Pradesh have already made some solid achievements in ensuring removal of illiteracy.

5. Speaking on this anniversary in 2005 I had expressed the hope of getting the North East Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST) upgraded to the status of a deemed University. It is with great satisfaction that I can announce that this goal has already been achieved and NERIST became a

deemed University in every way last month, in December, 2005.

The selection and appointment of a new permanent Director is done and already the institution is functioning far more academically. After becoming wholly autonomous in academic matters the Institution is poised to diversify into additional branches of science & technology.

6. Our Arunachal University, renamed Rajiv Gandhi University is already assured of soon, very soon, receiving the status and resources of a Central University. As a former University teacher, I have derived a sense of personal satisfaction that I have been able to assist these two institutions of higher learning; and that these are now recognized for their pursuit of excellence. Indeed the Rajiv Gandhi University is about to establish a Centre for excellence in Bio-diversity studies. According to an objective scale devised by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Bangalore, the Rajiv Gandhi University has attained the highest level of excellence of any University of North-East region. The Experts

and Academics of this University have earned our State's appreciation and gratitude by preparing the HDR for Arunachal Pradesh, on the request of UNDP and the Govt. of India's Planning Commission. On behalf the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, I wish publicly to congratulate the University for this signal service provided by them to the people of this State.

7. We are successfully implementing several facets of the objectives incorporated in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), our National Programme of Elementary Education.

8. Just a month ago in December, 2005 our people enjoyed show-casing the Siang River Festival at Tuting, Yingkiong and Pasighat. The importance of this River for our State, and its potential for attracting and structuring tourism in Arunachal Pradesh, providing for our people, specially the youth and the children of the State ecology and adventure related excitement as these would make their education complete and holistic.

9. 2005-06 was a year of expanded agricultural production for our State. Already we are moving from subsistence agriculture into commercial farming system in respect of several agricultural and horticultural crops. Our expectation has been to make horticulture the driving force for the economy of this Pradesh by ensuring that our people attract ever-expanding export earnings. We have done particularly well in respect of our productivity of apples and kiwis. Until now, however, our dream of attracting additional investment from outside the State for arranging production of coco beans and vanilla for which our soil is particularly suitable, has remained unfulfilled.

10. By March, 2005 out of our total number of 3,875 villages electrification was completed in only 1867 villages. Hydro-power potential of our State has been estimated at 49000 MW by the Central Electricity Authority. We have not been able to move towards this ambitious target. Success in Hydro-power projects can be ours in an eco & environment friendly fashion only by attracting collaboration with us of reliable, vigorous partners

belonging either to the Public Sector or from amongst Private Sector Corporates in the field of construction of major power projects. Our State is currently engaged in negotiating with Public Sector units like the NHPC, NEEPCO, NTPC as also with several major Private Sector Corporates. In the ultimate analysis however, for achieving success in any field, one has to depend on one's own effort, efficiency, resources, talent, and motivation. In Arunachal Pradesh we have been trying to motivate our official machinery and our personnel for fixing mini and micro-hydel projects to produce more power, specially in the villages in the upper reaches, near our border with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. I have commended to all of them the need to work with greater zeal and ambition and produce power through exploiting our own hydel resources. The Rural Electrification Programme of the Union Government envisages that we should achieve throughout the country 100% rural electrification by the year 2009. Our State machinery can help achieve this target for the country if we all pay greater attention to establishing micro

and mini-hydel projects in our remote Himalayan border areas. The larger the number of such projects, and more careful our planning, the more purposeful will it be for us inexpensively to ensure the stringing together of many many micro and mini-hydel projects in a straight-forward grid on our border. After all, China has set an example in this context for us on their side of the same border. I have been discussing this aspect of the work required in this area with technical as well as political colleagues. As a result it is now one of my fond ambitions to persuade all our engineers and political collaborators to make greater effort so we can build a much greater momentum in this area of functioning.

11. Arunachal's Cultural Troupes, belonging to several of our indigenous tribal groups have brought us kudos by displaying their talent, skill and artistry through frequent participation in cultural and artistic festivals at regional and national levels.

12. The area of our State is large, and population somewhat small. However, our strategically located and shared common

borders with three friendly countries: China, Bhutan and Myanmar provide this State a special significance, and must motivate us all to work not only purposefully but also with some diplomatic finesse and much greater subtlety. Bangladesh too is just a stone's throw away, and we need to understand its problems and motivations.

13. We have recognized for years the need for greater effort to build border trade and structure other cooperative economic activity jointly with these neighbours so that we and they derive as well as provide mutual benefit to all the States of the North-East. This is the time for Arunachal Pradesh to learn to be more ambitious and to build greater competitive energy in multiple fields. We can learn from Bhutan to organize eco-tourism and adventure-tourism and to build infrastructure of well planned roads joining significant areas attractive for Tourism. We need to underline and exploit the attractions of our bio-diversity, of our rivers, our old and important shrines and the beauty and simplicity of our tribal architecture. The architectural lessons

Bhutan teaches us are also important. Their ethnic, local school of architecture emphasizes their identity as a distinctive people. We in this State have so far failed to develop a distinctive Arunachalee school of architecture. In all our major and minor tourist spots, we must not think in terms of Five Stars Hotels or multi-storied modern monstrosities. Like Bhutan, we too need to develop clusters of small cottages, representing our own distinctive local architecture, representing our traditions, and life-style, and at the same time providing modern facilities and comforts, warmth and hygiene for civilized life-style. Such cottages and facilities should be meant to provide only for realistically estimated numbers of visitors and guests whom we may expect to come to us in different seasons. Bhutan also sets us an example of how we can avoid encouraging young backpackers from developed and affluent countries, who visit certain parts of Asia, in quest of narcotics and other cheap thrills along with inexpensive and tawdry accommodation and food. We must be mindful of not ruining our own youth through this kind of

undesirable company/ or by allowing such strangers to trap our very young children to become used to begging or thieving. Our relations with Myanmar are friendly enough now to enable our two countries to build a joint programme of discouraging movement through their country or ours of unruly, lawless, violent so-called dissidents, who have potential for violence. China has set us a tremendous example by building several East-West highways from their Pacific Coast right across their country across the plateau of Tibet, right upto South-Asia's borders. Within five years of commencing putting down their railway line system in Tibetan high ground at 13000 feet and above they are today on the verge of commencing passenger and goods trains traffic next door to Arunachal Pradesh border.

14. Many many North-South roads networks as well as electrification of the villages and habitats on the Tibetan side have been produced by the Chinese in record time in the last few years.

15. Our cooperation as also competition with all these neighbours requires us in Arunachal to give deep thought, make careful and painstaking planning effort so that we can hold our heads high and stand up to competing with all our neighbours as self respecting Arunachalees and Indians.

16. Recently our National Government have articulated and announced their priorities for the year 2006. Amongst these are some specifically underscored items. These are implementation, investment, infrastructure and employment generation. For this we would be required to build sound macro-economic policies and prudent fiscal management, for these alone will get us to attain our larger objectives.

17. For achieving all this the country as a whole, as also our Pradesh, have to be prepared for regular monitoring of economic, social, political, and national security trends. We have to keep an eye both on internal security and on the regional one. It is in this context that I have been emphasizing that our State needs to maintain close monitoring of programme implementation at the

State level as also at the District level. I have been underscoring the necessity for more frequent inspections of our administrative mechanism and governance at various levels: of Circles, Taluks, Sub-divisions, and Districts. I try to set an example through frequent personal inspections of our District level administrative machinery. Our District level executive officials are responsible in our State, for running also the Judicial branch. Our Panchayati Raj institutions: Zilla Parishads, and other grass-root level institutions too must not be neglected or ignored. Almost fifty years ago as a young district level administrator I was made to recognize the need for identifying with the people of rural areas. It was insisted by our elders that we should spend a minimum of 15 to 20 nights each month camping in villages so as to acquire a closer relationship with, and understanding of, the man behind the plough living in rural areas. This meant also that we could reassure our villagers that in the new India we are building together, the people and the Government machinery must remain close one to the other. Unfortunately, that system of interactive functioning

seems to have fallen into disuse. We need to revive it, and for this purpose we must sensitize all middle level and senior functionaries in this State to the needs and requirements of the farmer, the villager, and the disadvantaged.

18. When I think of the Arunachalee peasant, my fellow tribesman, the common herdsman, I recall the verse written by Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore describing the common peasant in this land of early Sun-rise where the dawn is impatient to deliver its light and effulgence at an hour much earlier than anywhere else:

WITH his morning songs he knocks at our door bringing his
greetings of sunrise

With him we take our cattle to the fields and play our flute
in the shade

In the busy hour of the day we come upon him of a sudden,
sitting on the wayside grass

We march when he beats his drum,
We dance when he sings

For him we light our lamp and wait when our day is done.

JAI HIND
