

LT GEN NIRBHAY SHARMA
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
Governor
Arunachal Pradesh



RAJ BHAVAN
Itanagar - 791111
India

MESSAGE

My dear brothers and sisters of Arunachal Pradesh,

On this sacred and joyous occasion of 65th Republic Day of our nation, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to each and every citizen of my State. I greet the numerous silent workers, farmers, doctors, engineers, teachers, members of civil society and the media, who are working relentlessly for strengthening the foundation of our democracy and ushering in all round development. Warm felicitations also go to the members of our armed forces, para-military forces and the Police with whose efforts we are secure and reaping the fruits of peace and tranquility.

Today, let us pay tribute to our founding fathers, who had brought forth freedom to our Nation, and gave us the Constitution which guarantees justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to promote secular spirit reinforcing our socialist democratic values.

The essential purpose of our Constitution is to ensure fundamental rights and dignity of every citizen. It bestows on every Indian social justice, by providing equal opportunity to access what is good for him or her. Social justice also imposes on each one of us a personal responsibility to work with others for personal and social development of all.

Bestowing economic justice, it grants every Indian an equal opportunity to earn a livelihood and equal access to available resources. Our constitution also provides every citizen a right to express his or her opinion by casting a vote at the time of election and any citizen can hold any of the public office.

Secularism is one of the basic constituents of our constitution. Our Government respects all religions and does not discriminate between any race, religion or caste. The Constitution provides framework and institutions for democratic governance. Effective representation is provided to the socially deprived groups in legislatures. The steps are already underway to ensure a stronger representation for women.

We in Arunachal Pradesh are a role model of 'unity in diversity' in India. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that despite being a pluralist society of many tribes, we cherish and continue to nourish our secular values and are proud of it.

This special occasion provides an opportunity to all of us to renew the pledge to work for the well-being of our people, for peace and harmony in our society and indeed, the world. We must re-dedicate ourselves on this day to realize the dream that had inspired the Father of our Nation and the other captains and soldiers of our freedom struggle, the dream of establishing a classless, co-operative, free and happy society. We must remember that this is as much a day of dedication as that of rejoicing, if not more- day of dedication to the glorious task of making the peasants and workers, the toilers and the thinkers all alike, fully free, happy and cultured.

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Over the last 64 years, our nation has faced numerous challenges, both from within and without. 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, so as to get the strength, wisdom, ability and blessings to face such challenges for all times to come.

My dear people of Arunachal Pradesh, as its commitment to the people, the State Government has given its best in every field of development for the wellbeing of everyone of you. Having been associated with the State for long, I know that we have come a long way and the State Government deserves our compliments. The Government and the State can further forge ahead, if each one of us displays a befitting sense of responsibility. On this red-lettered day, we commit ourselves towards a happier and healthier society.

With a clear vision and new strength, let us renew our commitment in taking Arunachal Pradesh to new heights of development and prosperity. Let us also pledge to provide every citizen, the youth in particular, their rights to education, health care, equal opportunity to excel, to express his or her opinion and the ultimate freedom from want.

The true essence of practicing mature democracy, as enunciated by the Hon'ble President of India, is by way of discussion, debate and dissension and not by 'disruption.' I, not only as the Governor or the first citizen, but more as your 'Gao Burah' as I would like to call myself, urge the youth in particular and their mentors to keep this in mind and ensure that energy of the youth is not diverted towards disruption, as also the social evil of corruption and criminal activities like extortion have to be fully eradicated.

Today, when the national Tri-colour unfurls, let each one of us commit ourselves to live up to our duties and responsibilities, conscious that we are part of 'Team Arunachal' and a great nation with a great destiny. I urge the elders in the society in particular to fulfill their moral responsibility towards 'generation next' to guide and mentor them, to enable the youth to realize their full potential, to constructively work towards nation building and take the State to the heights of peace and prosperity.

Let us share the optimism that we will rise above personal and political differences to work for the common good of all. To each one of us in the State, challenge is to harness the nature's bounty positivity. 'Land of the Rising Sun' has all that it takes to become a socio-economic model and a leading State of India. Let us stand together and realize our potential for a vibrant and progressive Arunachal.

Jai Hind.

Nirbhay Sharma

Lt General Nirbhay Sharma,
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