

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



RAJ BHAVAN
Itanagar - 791111
India

MESSAGE

My dear fellow citizens of Arunachal Pradesh,

On this sacred and joyous occasion of 66th Republic Day of our Nation, I extend 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. We in Arunachal Pradesh can never forget the war of 1962, when we stood-fast resolutely against a foreign aggression. Let us particularly salute those countrymen, who made the supreme sacrifice defending us during this war.

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.

Over the last 65 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. 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.

The year also saw loss of lives and materials due to natural calamities, fire accidents, and law and order challenges. In spite of all these challenges, the committed spirit, courage and determination shown by the State Government and people of the State facilitated in maintaining normalcy.

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.

The State is endowed with nature's bounty and has huge socio-economic potential awaiting to be unlocked. The Government has laid special focus on infrastructure, education, health and skill development and is working to harness our strength in hydropower, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and minerals. While carrying forward ecologically balanced development agenda, it has and will continue to eradicate poverty, check corruption and provide transparency in governance.

Having been associated with the State for long, I know that we have come a long way. However, some constraints are holding back our agenda. I would like to appeal to all my fellow Arunachalees to reflect on this very seriously. Each one of us has an equal stake and has to display a befitting sense of responsibility.

I specifically urge the elders in the society 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.

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 evils of corruption and criminal activities like extortion have to be fully eradicated. While retaining our rich cultural

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



RAJ BHAVAN
Itanagar - 791111
India

identity and values for the overall good, let us not waste our time and energy in petty intra and inter tribal and / or regional conflicts. Instead, these should invariably be resolved in a healthy democratic manner through debate and discussion.

What is heartening is to see peaceful democratic protests gradually replacing the bandh culture. It is good that the public institutions are under greater scrutiny and being strengthened. Also, a few examples of civil society standing up against extortion and corruption and fight against drugs menace reflect the healthy concern of the people and must be lauded. Well done and keep it up!

I am very happy to see the enthusiastic response of the community to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which has reinforced our campaign for a Clean, Green and Plastic Free Arunachal Pradesh. I wish that every member of the society including public leaders and administrators take up the responsibility to keep our house, colonies, roads, hospital, schools, market places and office premises clean and importantly green.

We must take special pride and put in effort to show case the State Capital as a model city. In particular, Illegal construction and encroachment in the city are a cause of great concern and must be removed.

The social and financial inclusion through Jan Dhan Yojna is yet another flagship programme to be worked upon and so are the measures to save energy and water. These initiatives led by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are apolitical in nature and should be seen as vital national imperatives for development.

A practicing mature democracy has to be participatory with each citizen contributing in nation building. In that the elders in our communities/ tribes and public figures have to be social reformers and role models so that we retain the good in our culture and shed the distortions that have crept in. I am reminded of our Father of the Nation, who said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Collectively, we need to rise above narrow personal greed and interests and see the bigger picture. Personal interest must be subordinated to the interest of community and the country. Time is of essence and we have to speed up our developmental projects by creating a conducive and cooperative environment. We must ensure that the benefits of development reach even the remotest corner of the State and to the poorest of all in a fair and transparent manner.

My words of advice to all the public figures and Government officials is to remember what Gandhi ji said. I quote, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' Unquote. I am confident that you will live up to this motto. Remember, we have to continue to work selflessly for the good of Arunachal and go even beyond the call of Duty. Let key to development and progress be the good governance. Let there be a transparent and accountable administration, which works for the betterment and welfare of common people guided by 'Citizen First' principle.

I compliment Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki and his team for working earnestly towards realizing our dreams and giving shape to our aspirations.

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. Remember, a great future awaits you.

"Arise, awake, sleep no more; within each of you there is the power to remove all wants and all miseries. Believe this, and that power will be manifested."

Swami Vivekanand

Jai Hind, Jai Arunachal.

Nirbhay Sharma
Lt General Nirbhay Sharma,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)