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### MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of 23<sup>rd</sup> Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh, I extend my sincere greetings and felicitations to all Arunachalees. I would also like to convey my gratitude to the people of the State, especially the Gaon Burahs, Panchayat leaders, youths, students, police and para-military forces, administrative officers and all other government officials for their unstinted supports for maintaining peace as well as in the development of the State.

Today is a red letter day in the history of our State. It reminds us of our beloved leader Late Rajiv Gandhi, who was instrumental in granting Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh. It was because of his personal initiative and blessings, we attained full-fledged Statehood on this day in 1987. Thus, a long cherished dream of every Arunachalee was realized, which gave an opportunity to the people to shape their destiny.

In the last twenty-two years, our State has made tremendous progress in every field of development, and the last year saw a surge in the pace. With the Prime Minister's developmental package giving impetus to it, infrastructural development, in terms of road, air and rail communications, power projects, health and rural development, scaled new heights.

Committed to the 'people first' approach, my government is determined to make Arunachal Pradesh a role model of all-round development. Our efforts will continue so as to ensure that every section of society reaps the benefit of development. Friends, we also have an important role to play in making our state a prosperous and modern state, and at the same time improve our quality of life. Financial empowerment of the 'aam admi' can come through initiatives from us relating to tourism, handicrafts, horticulture, floriculture, beekeeping and 'mission honey', organic farming of fruits and vegetables etc. Let us together take a pledge today, to undertake the first step in this direction.

Finally, my dear Arunachalees, on this festive occasion, let us make an effort with missionary zeal to bring a smile and contentment on the faces of our brothers and sisters. Let us pledge to work unitedly as 'Team Arunachal' to eradicate illiteracy, poverty, inequality and corruption from our beautiful pristine Arunachal Pradesh and contribute all that is possible for its progress and prosperity.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.

Gen J J Singh,  
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