

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Swachchh Bharat Abhiyan in Arunachal Pradesh

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen Nirbhay Sharma (Retd) appealed to the people of the State, especially students, employees, NGOs, community based organisations and civil society for whole hearted participation in the Swachchh Bharat Abhiyan. The Mission, which will be launched on 2nd October 2014, commemorating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

During the interaction with Chief Minister of the State Shri Nabam Tuki, his cabinet colleagues and the leader of opposition at Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on 26th September 2014, the Governor said that it is the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to have a five year programme to make our country clean. The goal is to achieve Swachchh Bharat by 2nd October 2019, as a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. Consequently, the State Government will prepare an annual plan for the mission in the State.

The Governor reminded the gathering that our Father of the Nation considered cleanliness next to Godliness and called sanitation more important than political freedom. He stated that the task may appear to be mammoth, but is doable and must be accomplished to see a healthy and vibrant India. 'Charity begins at home' the old adage suggests that each one of us starts the cleanliness and sanitation drive from own home, then go on to the locality, city and beyond. Participation by all of us young, not so young and old and from various sections of society, NGOs, Government bodies and particularly the youth is vital for this mission to succeed.

The Governor exhorted the State Cabinet to strengthen existing programmes and take up new ones to make the Itanagar city, towns and rural areas of the State totally sanitized, healthy and liveable. He also asked them to ensure sustainable good public health and environmental output for all with a special focus on hygiene and affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor and women.

The Governor suggested for organising Swachchh Bharat Marathon, walkathons, painting competitions, 'Awareness Marches' at various society levels to create awareness in public at large about the cleanliness of houses and premises.

The Governor emphasized for administrating public pledge on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in public gatherings and school and college assemblies not to litter on road or spit in public places and to deposit waste products at designated waste collection points.

Highlighting on creating awareness on healthy usage of toilets to eliminate open defecation, the Governor stressed on repair, maintenance, cleaning and sanitization of public and community toilets. He suggested for display of message of cleanliness through sign boards at public places, particularly in market.

The Governor also emphasised on construction of toilets in schools and Angawadi centres, while accentuating on the importance of instilling good hygienic habits amongst the children and youth. He insisted on educating school children about importance of sanitation, through distribution of hygiene educating materials.

The Governor advised the State Government to provide the adequate fund and take prompt action for removal of debris and garbage heaps in public places. He recommended for cleaning of Government buildings including removal of excess furniture and obsolete files lying in the corridors.

Continuing with its Clean and Green Arunachal Drive for which the Raj Bhawan has always been known for in the past, the Governor advised the State Government to conduct cleanliness drives in the schools, colonies, sectors, market places, hospitals and riverbanks.

The Governor urged upon every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh, through the State Government to devote at least two hours every week towards cleanliness, which make hundred hours every year.

The Governor concluded by saying “we all have equal stakes in in it and owe it to our future generations as well. So, my fellow Arunachalees, let us rise and be in the forefront of this campaign. The country beckons us to fulfil our obligation to our motherland.”

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, September 26, 2014