

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

Press Communiqué

Governor addresses Special Assembly session

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) addressed the Special Assembly session of the Arunachal Pradesh State Legislative Assembly in presence of the President of India Smti Droupadi Murmuhere on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Addressing the august house, the Governor said "I am happy to note that the political leadership of the State is fully seized of the challenges and opportunities and is working sincerely to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for its people. There is nothing which can stand in the way of Arunachal Pradesh provided there is will and determination on the part of its people and leaders".

Stating that the State has crossed a long journey in a comparatively short period of time, he said, "Today's Arunachal Pradesh stands between the legacy of an ancient civilization and the promising horizons of a boundless future. May Arunachal Pradesh emerge as a land of grace and beauty, a shining jewel amongst the beautiful states that make up our great and glorious country".

He said that one of the basic objectives of a representative democracy is to see that governance is carried out keeping in mind the mantra – people first. In a parliamentary democracy, the legislature represents the sovereign will of the people and hence we have to be sensitive and responsive to the problems of the people and give voice to their grievances by raising them on the floor of the house, adding that while doing so, we must rise above narrow sectarian differences and instead build on our dream of shared prosperity.

On the occasion, he called upon the members to diligently carry on with their duties towards the land and fellow citizens, adding that, "as we speak about progress and achievements, let us keep in mind that being the world's largest democracy with the greatest of diversities comes with great responsibility. There will always be challenges, but we should not despair against adversity".

While quoting the saying - "Vox Populi, Vox Dei! The voice of the people is truly the voice of God", he urged upon the members to act as the link between the people and the government. Speaking on the journey of the State since conferment of Statehood, the Governor hoped that the Assembly as "abode of democracy" be a place for the members to work with responsibility, transparency and accountability, visible to our people.

Terming the essence of the democratic values in tribal societies in maintaining consultative decision making as the best and in its purest form, the Governor said that functioning of the house is an extension of that age old system that has withstood the test of changing times and shown the world, what our love for democratic traditions is all about. 'The assembly follow the established and effective democratic principles of the collective consciousness of the people, he added.

On the occasion, the Governor further lauded the members for playing a pivotal role by participating in democratic discussion, debate and decision making, to plan, preserve and promote the interest of the people of the state and called upon them to continue to maintain the highest standards of democratic practice and dedicate yourself completely to the welfare of the people.

Emphasising that safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the communities is an essential and necessary requirement for sustainable development, he said that government is taking steps to preserve the rich cultural heritage in the form of folklore, folk stories, traditional knowledge and generational awareness. He urged upon the members to make every attempt to preserve the rich heritage of the state and stay committed to further bolstering the ethnic identities and showcase our distinguished culture to the world at large. "We have taken up the project of documenting the cultural heritage of many tribes. We have also published indigenous language books, a feat that will go a long way towards preserving our indigenous heritage", he informed.

Expressing his gratitude to the President of India for her presence in the state and Assembly as well, the Governor said, "Your Excellency, this visit will provide phenomenal motivation to the young girls and women of the State, conveying the message that sincerity, service and hard work can make them true leaders and role models for the society".

Legislative Assembly Speaker Pasang Dorjee Sona, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and all members of the Assembly were present in the special session held in honour of the President of India.

**Sd/- PRO to Governor
Raj Bhavan, Itanagar**