



ADDRESS

OF

SHRI J.P. RAJKHOWA, IAS (Retd.)

HON'BLE GOVERNOR

OF

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION

OF

REPUBLIC DAY, 2016

AT

ITANAGAR

My dear Brothers and Sisters and friends;

On the joyous occasion of the 67th Republic Day of the Country, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to each and every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh - the Eastern Beauty, the land of the Rising Sun and my fellow citizens of rest of the country. I also avail this opportunity to convey my warm New Year Greetings to you all.

I greet the members of our Armed Forces- the Army, Navy and Air force, the Police, Para-military forces, our border-guards who remain ever vigilant and ever-ready to defend the pride and honour of our motherland. I also take great pride as an Indian on the remarkable achievement of our country in the field of Science and Technology – Space Science and Rocketry in particular, which have made our dream to reach the Moon and the Mars almost a reality. Kudos are due to the great scientist and Missile Man Bharat Ratna and former President APJ Abdul Kalam and the dedicated expert ISRO team promoted by him.

I am grateful to the workers, farmers, teachers, doctors, nurses and other para-medics, scientists, Government officials engaged in agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, sericulture, handloom and weaving, forestry, environment and wild life protection, tourism development, housing, electricity, water resources, sanitation, animal husbandry and veterinary and other fields and the engineers and technologists and others who, through their hard work and devotion, are contributing towards developing Arunachal Pradesh.

Today, on this august occasion, let us all pay our rich tributes to our great leaders, patriots and freedom fighters who made umpteen personal sacrifices to present their future generations, a Sovereign Democratic Nation, which also advocates Socialistic and Secular ideals and principles. Let us also pay our homage to the father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Abdul Kalam Azad, Jay Prakash Narayan, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, and all other distinguished personalities who made immense contributions towards a 'free India'.

May I also pay my most profound tributes to the thousands of heroes of 1962 War, who sacrificed their lives in defence of Mother India, when they valiantly fought the Chinese invaders, on the Arunachal front and also along the Western Himalayas, against hundreds of odds.

Sixty-six years ago, on 26th January 1950, as India became a Republic and the Constitution came into force, we got the authority to shape our own destiny. It was also the first significant step since Independence, in our attempts towards realizing the vision of a new, vibrant and self-reliant India. However, with great authority comes great responsibility and the onus to imbibe and nurture the values enshrined by the framers of our Constitution, lies on all of us, as responsible, law-abiding, accountable, ethically guided and patriotic citizens.

Our biggest collective achievement over this period has been our ability to preserve the democratic traditions of the country and take significant steps forward on the road to becoming a mature and vibrant democracy. I hope and believe, that, we will continue to uphold the Constitution of India securing to its citizens, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, as enshrined in the Preamble.

Our Constitution is unique in that, while it guarantees us with Fundamental Rights, e.g. (1) Right to Equality (2) Right to Freedom (3) Right Against Exploitation (4) Right to Freedom of Religion (5) Cultural and Educational Rights and (6) Right to Constitutional Remedies, as enshrined in Part-III, it also prescribes for each citizen certain Fundamental Duties through incorporation in Part IV-A (Article 51-A). It is our sacred duty to exercise our rights properly without infringing into the Rights of other citizens and we should also avoid misuse, which is often being done, for example, Right to freedom of speech and expression; Right to assemble peaceably and without arms / to form associations and unions. As for some Fundamental duties, every citizen has to abide by the Constitution and respect ideals and Institutions, the National Flag and National Anthem; to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India; to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all sections of people; to safeguard public property and to abjure violence; just to name a few. Let us all take by heart our Fundamental Rights & Duties together. I hope that this Day, which marked the beginning of a new era in the history of India will infuse renewed zeal and vigour amongst all citizens to uphold the values and spirit of our Constitution. It also must be understood by one and all that the ultimate Authority to interpret the Constitution is the Supreme Court of India, whose Orders are binding on all.

Over the last 66 years, we came across many challenges from within and outside and we had always come out successfully, with the entire Nation standing united, inspite of diversities. Today, due to the united efforts of 125 Crore Indians, we have become the fastest growing economy in the world, even overtaking China. We also have the largest youth force with 65% of our population below 35 years of age.

Now, I shall briefly highlight some of the activities of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh (GoAP).

GoAP took up the task of preparing the "Arunachal Vision-2030", for which an Expert Committee had been constituted. The vision document needs to be finalized soon. Meanwhile people-oriented policies and programme for alleviation of poverty, infra-structure development, various schemes in Social, Economic, Health, Education, Skill Development, Connectivity, Communication, Power Generation, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Tourism, Handloom, Handicrafts and Horticulture etc. & other priority sectors have to be formulated on short-term basis.

To achieve the desired success in all the Key Sectors on a sustainable basis and free of corrupt practices, five 'M's – Men, Money, Machines, Materials and Methods have to be managed through Five 'E's- Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Equity and Excellence.

While the present Health Insurance Scheme, and the targeted coverage of 100% of the eligible Households would help the needy people to get free medical treatment, to the extent of ceiling fixed per household, there is urgent need for easy and affordable access to medical service in the interior border areas, blocks, sub-divisions and districts through setting up health care and wellness centres, with necessary doctors, nurses and other paramedics and supported by infrastructures like modern labs, beds, ICU, OTs, medicines etc.

I feel that the GoAP should draw up schemes for upgrading the facilities for medical investigation in all districts / sub-divisional hospitals by installing latest machines and equipments for the benefit of the common man, who due to financial constraints cannot go to places where these facilities are available. I would also urge upon the State Government to set up a Medical College in the State, at a centrally located place, together with a “state of the art” Hospital.

We have to also focus on imparting quality education and make available opportunity to aspirants to pursue higher education, by setting up Degree Colleges, Polytechnics etc. in each sub-divisional, district and ADC headquarters. For creating a knowledge-based economy thrust on Higher education through re-orientation of Courses would be required. For this, Govt. should constitute a multi-disciplinary Expert Committee. We must ensure that our system of higher education offers world-class quality for facing the growing challenges of the highly competitive Global economy, with ease and confidence. As emphasized by Swami Vivekananda, our aim should be to impart “man-making Education.”

For a strong foundation, we also have to strengthen our secondary and elementary education sectors. I hope ‘The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009’ will be implemented in true spirit, and the drop-out rates would be brought down to the minimum, far below the national average. I also hope that GoAP will leave no stone unturned to raise the literacy rate from the abysmally low 65.35% which is below the national average of 73%, to the level of one of the highest in the country. The literacy rate of women is far below the State average and to bring it at par with State average, special measures for education of the girls and women are called for.

I am convinced that the youth of our State have tremendous inherent skills, talents and potential to become successful scientists, engineers, doctors, teachers, sportspersons, and successful individuals in other fields of life and the economy. But they need a conducive, peaceful, conflict-free, healthy environment for the manifestation of their potential. They also need proper guidance from their parents, teachers, the academia and the intelligentsia in general to pursue their goals.

For Skill Development, in addition to the Skill Development Mission of Government of India, a token provision of Rs. 5 crore for providing soft loan to skilled persons for self employment finance has been made in the State Budget. I hope, this

provision would be enhanced to a higher level, say about Rs.50 crore in view of high unemployment level of youth. Similarly, the Central Mudra Bank Scheme for extending loan assistance to individual entrepreneurs up to Rs. 5 lakh, without any guarantee requirement, needs to be popularised. In addition to Job Melas being conducted in the districts, the GoAP should go for District Development Potential Surveys through expert agencies and Industrial Campaigns by the DICs.

Owing to its vastness, and tough geographical terrain, and overall neglect of the authorities, over the years, my State lacks in desired Air, Road and Rail connectivity. The 1575 km length Trans Arunachal Highway is under implementation. This two-lane highway when completed will touch the easternmost part with western most point of the State and will act as the backbone of road network in the State. It will facilitate in construction of other link roads thus enhancing the road connectivity. The pace of implementation of this Road needs to be expedited, for which, I urge upon the people and the Government to sort out the issues of land acquisition, forest clearances, logistic support, security and law and order on top priority basis.

The 1,800 km long Frontier Highway, which will run parallel along the Indo-China border and the proposed East-West Industrial Corridor of 431 km from Bhairabkund (West Kameng District) to Ruksin (East Siang District) along the border with Assam, for promotion of Industrial activities and enterprise building, will definitely boost the State's economy and revolutionize the road connectivity in the State in coming years.

Poor road conditions in the State including the twin Capital City of Itanagar & Naharlagun reminds me of the famous saying by former American President John F. Kennedy, who said, "America has good roads not because America is rich, but America is rich because America has good roads." Rest of India is developing fast mainly because of excellent road infrastructure.

I have taken up issues regarding roads, including 12 old Inter-State NEC roads called 'Orphan Roads' and also in Tirap District, with Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji, Union Minister of Road Transport, Highway & Shipping, who has given me his positive assurance. I have also taken up with him and also External Affairs Minister for special steps to upgrade the 160 km of the Stillwell Road in Myanmar, which would immensely benefit us.

As for air connectivity, NEC funded Tezu Airport is being developed and a Greenfield Airport project for the State is under process. I have taken up with the Union Minister of Civil Aviation for expediting a decision on the location of the project at Hollongi or Karsingsa-Banderdewa, based on techno-economic-social and environmental considerations and start early implementation. I have also taken up with the Centre for sanctioning another 3 to 4 Airports for my State, considering its vastness and inaccessibility, for which constitution of a Site Selection Committee with representatives of GoAP was suggested.

7 (Seven) Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) are coming up, which are proposed to be used for civilian purposes also and once that is permitted by the Centre, the people in far-flung areas will be benefitted. I have also requested the Centre for providing fund to Arunachal Pradesh to upgrade at least 26 Helipads in the State.

Railway line connecting the State Capital with the rest of the country is already operationalized, by running daily Inter-city express between Naharlagun and Guwahati and one weekly AC Express between Naharlagun and New Delhi via Guwahati. At my initiative the Railways replaced the old Bogies with new ones and also provided the lacking infrastructure and other facilities at Naharlagun Railway Station. My efforts to increase frequency of both the trains are continuing. Further, the preliminary works on other strategic lines to Tawang in the West and Pasighat in the East in Arunachal Pradesh are to be expedited.

You know well that no State can develop industrially and economically and people will not feel happy without reliable electricity, in required quantity and quality, at affordable rate. Arunachal Pradesh with an estimated hydropower potential of 58,000 MW could become the Power House of India. But presently, electricity generation capacity is only 95.4 MW with 23.16 MW Hydel. As for consumption, as against all India Average of per capita 818.75 kwh, in our State, it is only 582.05 kwh. Promoting investment in mini, micro and large hydropower projects in the PPP mode, completion of languishing hydropower projects along with the capacity addition programme; development of Transmission, Sub-transmission and System Improvement will be accorded priority. In order to harness the mega Hydro-power potential of the State, the impasse due to environmental, ecological and social issues, has to be addressed in a balanced manner. It is hoped that, the proposed commissioning of the Kameng and Pare Hydel projects by NEEPCO by the year end, would provide us extra power of about 300 MW. We have also to lay special emphasis on generation of Solar Energy by setting up Solar City, Solar Village, Solar Park etc. on which I have already given my suggestions to the Government, including use of solar power in Raj Bhavan.

Our State is blessed with minerals like coal, graphite, lead, quartz and crude oil etc. There are more than 30 types of minerals spread all over the State, but most of the minerals are unexplored. I have requested the Prime Minister for constituting an Expert Group to prepare a Master Plan for exploration of the minerals, proper mapping and drawing up a Master Plan for harnessing the underground resources.

Arunachal Pradesh is an agrarian State. The total crop production during 2014-15 was 7.19 lakh Metric Tonnes, which is 6.3% higher than in 2013-14. Productivity of Rice and Pulses substantially increased during 2014-15 over the previous year and the State selected for Krishi Karman Commendation Award for 2014-15. I congratulate the farming community and all those involved in the efforts for this achievement.

Higher thrust is to be given for mechanization of farming through wider coverage of uncovered areas, by providing Tractors, Power Tillers, Paddy Dehusking Machine, Threshing Machine, Rotary Tiller, Atta Chakki, Sugarcane Crusher and Power Sprayer etc. for generating additional income and employment.

It is heartening that Arunachal State Policy on Organic Farming has been notified and new initiatives on promotion of organic farming are going to be launched. With the Prime Minister's thrust on making the North East "Organic Hub" of the Country and launching of the Organic Mission, our efforts should be to get our State declared as Organic Farming State as done for Sikkim. I have already taken up the matter with the Centre.

Here I would like to emphasise that the National Food Security Act, 2013 which aims to provide subsidized food grains to the BPL families be implemented in right earnest. I would also urge upon the Society and the Government to initiate special measures for well being of the old, unmarried women, widows and physically challenged people.

Another sector, which needs to be harnessed to its potential for boosting the rural economy, is Horticulture. This sector provides immense scope for micro, small and medium enterprises through development of entrepreneurship. The State has already become the largest producer of Kiwi fruit in the country and Kiwi Wine manufactured in Pune is reportedly selling like hot cakes. I would like Arunachal Pradesh to become the Winery of India, manufacturing wine within the State, based on Kiwi, Apples, Grapes, Oranges etc. produced in large quantity. Similarly, the most popular local brew 'Apong' produced out of millet, rice etc., which is universally taken as a healthy drink, by tribal custom, tradition and practice, could be promoted by the State by encouraging scientific refining, bottling, preservation techniques and marketing through normal retailer channels, by encouraging local entrepreneurs. This could enhance rural livelihood income, generate employment and also encourage replacement of drugs, opium addiction by a healthy drink. All out efforts through Rehabilitation, Motivation, Training by the State and district Administration, NGOs, Students' bodies etc. should continue for ridding the State of opium & drug menace.

Fishery also can contribute significantly towards State GDP and enhance the socio economic status of the farmers by ensuring livelihood support and protein security. During my visit to Ziro, I was very impressed by the traditional system of Apatani's 'Paddy cum Fish culture.' It is unique, profitable and eco-friendly. People of other parts of the State with similar agro-climatic conditions should emulate this system instead of Jhum or single crop Cultivation.

Another sector that we need to focus for financial empowerment of the people, particularly the women, is Khadi, Cottage and Village Industries. We need to harness the tribal expertise of the State in handloom, handicrafts and textiles sector including carpet making, dress designing etc. through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). I have taken up with the Union Minister for MSME Shri Kalraj Mishra for

setting up Skill Development Centres for promoting MSME units and his response was positive.

Tourism can transform the economy of Arunachal Pradesh. With its high tourism potential, particularly Rural, Spiritual, Historical, Cultural, Adventure (River tourism included) and Eco Tourism, it can be the most sought-after destination in the country, provided we re-shape our mindset with the Indian tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and spirit of entrepreneurship and have good roads, road side amenities including wash rooms, restaurants, Budget hotels, Guest Houses etc. and an efficient public transport network. With proposed schemes, 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'Integrated Development on Adventure Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh', you can expect more development of this sector. The recent sanction of Rs 97.13 crore by the Central Government for promoting 'River Tourism' is expected to boost up the tourism sector. The recently held Kameng River Festival at Seppa is a very welcome development.

Arunachal Pradesh is not only rich in biodiversity but also in ethnic and cultural diversity. Among its 26 major tribes and above 100 sub-tribes, Arunachal Pradesh has distinct and varied culture with a strong tradition of art and music. Every festival is celebrated with folk songs and dances. It is necessary to protect, preserve and promote folk music, folk dances, folk drama and folk lores of different tribes and sub-tribes of our State and also their language / dialects, healthy traditions and customs, so that their identity is not lost. To ensure this, we need to promote research in these fields and make documentation. And for that co-ordinated action by the State Directorate of Art and Culture, Archaeology & Museums with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and other connected Agencies of Govt. of India is required. A Regional Centre of ICCR should be set up in our State, for which, while a request was made to the ICCR authority recently, at a Cultural Meet at Raj Bhavan, GoAP will have to follow this up.

Our State is blessed with 82% Forest coverage and has a very fragile eco system. Its preservation has huge impact for the State and the Nation. I am pained to see the beautiful hills, majestic rivers, fountains and streams and the lush green valleys of Arunachal littered with waste and refuse, and also facing danger due to encroachment. Nature has given us everything; but what have we given back to Nature ? Let us all take a pledge to protect and nourish Nature. Let us strive towards Green & Clean Arunachal Pradesh.

I am delighted to know that some conscious and alert citizens are rescuing wild birds and animals. Recently, Arunachal Press Club (APC) President Shri Chopra Cheda handed over a black-breasted Khalij Pheasant to Curator of Itanagar Biological Park and Deputy Chief Wildlife Warden Shri Chukhu Loma came up with an idea of fabricating synthetic hornbill beaks. These innovative and small gestures will go a long way for preservation of some of our near extinct wildlife. In this context, I would like to congratulate the State Wild Life agencies and department for achieving an annual tourism value of Rs. 34.7 million by Itanagar Biological Park, higher than that of Jim Corbett National Park, as assessed by Texas A&M University, Texas, USA.

Our State is known for our fabulous Orchids. Out of about a thousand species of orchids in India, over 500 are endemic to Arunachal alone. Hence this State can rightly be called the 'Orchids' Paradise' of our country. I call upon youth of the State and unemployed women and housewives to take up orchid and floriculture for self-employment. You will be pleased to know that, at the initiative of the First Lady Mrs. Rita Rajkhowa and with whole hearted support of Principal Secretary (Forests) & PCCF Dr. Sashi Kumar, one new Orchidarium and one Tail Flower House for Anthoryams have been set up at Raj Bhavan, at a vintage location. Once the Raj Bhavan complex is re-opened for public, visitors would surely like these.

Today, our country needs a transformation in the processes of the governance in order to provide an efficient, people-friendly, transparent, corruption free and accountable administration in the country. We have to expand the activities under the 'Digital India Mission' to make 'Good Governance' a reality. I call upon all government functionaries, employees' bodies and officials to be aware of their duties as public servants, internal processes and the need to work with full commitment, without wasting time in political activities, which some have been doing. We have to ensure smooth, prompt, hassle-free delivery of public services. We have to provide corruption free administration and all those involved in corrupt practices and other unlawful activities must be dealt with firm hands.

In this regard, I emphasize on the urgency to constitute the State 'Lok Ayukta' on priority. Such initiative will ensure delivery of justice, speedily and at reasonable cost to the poorest of the poor. Step must also be taken, with right earnest, to complete the process of separating the Judiciary from the Executive.

On the security front, while our State does not have home grown terrorists or underground elements, some districts in the eastern front are affected through terrorist acts like, extortion, kidnapping, demand of House Tax, Business Tax etc., imposed by underground groups visiting from outside. The security agencies are keeping close watch on such illegal activities and have also been successful in nabbing or neutralising some such elements and also recovering significant quantity of arms, ammunition, explosives etc., which is indeed commendable. On the law and order front, certain recent happenings, as you all know, are a matter of great concern in the Capital Complex in particular. The Police, Magistracy and the Administration have to be more vigilant, proactive and innovative and enforce the law strictly by dealing with all law breakers firmly and impartially, in order to maintain the Order and public peace and ensure security for the common man. They must understand that they are servants of the Law only. The increasing trend of crimes against women and properties also need to be contained.

You all know that many people-centric programmes have been launched by Government of India. We must ensure that our farmers benefit from Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a new crop insurance scheme to boost farming sector in the country. I call upon the State Government to see that our young boys and girls avail 'Start up India Scheme' which aims to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and Women entrepreneurs. Let us ensure cent percent coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and avail the benefits under other Central Schemes, i.e. Smart City Mission, Atal Pension Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Surksha Beema Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and so on.

Along with rest of the country, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) was launched on 2nd October 2014 in our State. It is heartening that every now and then, students groups, communities, women bodies, youth associations and government officials across the State are conducting cleanliness drives. Success of the Swachh Bharat Mission lies on every individual of the society. From senior citizens to children, they have their role to play. Society has to ensure that there is no pollution caused by us and nature is not disturbed by few careless people. We all take utmost care for our personal comfort and appearance; in the same manner, let us maintain our home, surroundings, village, towns, city and thus keep our beautiful State in pristine shape. The Municipal bodies, Panchayats, Public Sector Enterprises, Banks & Financial Institutions, Commercial establishments, Chambers of Commerce & other such bodies too have a role to play. By setting up Waste Paper Recycling Plant as done by the Donyi Polo Mission and also Plastic Waste Processing Plants as done elsewhere, we can contribute to the SBA.

On this sacred occasion, let us all pledge to do our respective works with sincerity, commitment and devotion and with a high sense of patriotism, so that all the evil forces disappear and goodness prevails, the Truth prevails and the Nation emerges, along with Arunachal Pradesh as the most powerful and blooming economy. Let us also join hands to fight the menace of the hydra-headed monster called "Corruption" otherwise Good Governance would be a far cry and the common man would continue to suffer.

Let us all strive to build strong linkages between industry, academia, and government, create an environment conducive to promoting Sunrise, competitive, economic and business models and development of local skills to facilitate greater opportunities for job creation in different sectors.

Let us develop an Inclusive multi-track educational system for generating creative, innovative, hard-working, committed, multi-skilled manpower determined to face challenges nationally as well as internationally by introducing competitive principles and University reforms with higher thrust on Science, Technology, Innovations etc. through use of information and cyber technology.

Let us appreciate that the Government and the State can forge ahead to keep pace with the rest of India only with the active co-operation and participation of every citizen of the State. Hence active involvement of the community has to be ensured for success of all schemes and programmes.

Let each one of us be conscious of the fact that we are the citizens of a great Nation with a Great past, an equally Great Present and a Glorious future ahead. So whatever position we hold in Government, Politics or Society, we should do good and great things only, otherwise posterity will not forgive us.

As I conclude, I commend the State Police, the CRPF, ITBP, NCC, Scouts and Guides as well as students for their high standard of drill and smart turnout in this parade. The members of the various cultural troupes and the school children also deserve admiration for their enthusiastic participation in this Republic Day celebration.

Once again, Best Wishes and Sincere Greetings to all my brothers and sisters of the State and the Country. Let us love and serve our State and the Country by emulating what former U.S. President J.F. Kennedy said to his countrymen- "Ask not what America has done for you, ask what you can do for America". In the same spirit, let us take the pledge to do our best for our State of Arunachal Pradesh and our Nation.

Let us dream for a progressive, prosperous, developed and happy Arunachal Pradesh and work tirelessly to realize that dream. We have to take by heart what our former President Bharat Ratna APJ Abdul Kalam said and believed: "Dream is not what you see in your sleep, dream is what does not let you sleep".

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!
