



**SPEECH**  
**OF**  
**Lt. General K.T. Parnaik,**  
**PVSM, UYSM, YSM (RETD.)**  
**HON'BLE GOVERNOR**  
**OF**  
**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION**  
**OF**  
**REPUBLIC DAY 2025**  
**AT**  
**ITANAGAR**

## **Greetings**

1. **Jai Hind and a warm greeting to all the people of Arunachal Pradesh on this 76th Republic Day!**
2. **Today, we come together to celebrate the strength that comes from India's unity in diversity. We remember the values of justice, freedom, equality, and brotherhood that are written in our Constitution. This day reminds us of the hard work and vision of our leaders, who gave us a constitution that still guides us today, giving hope for a better future.**
3. **It's also a time to reflect on how far we've come as a country, thanks to the sacrifices of our ancestors who believed in a fair and just democracy. From our fight for independence to the thriving democracy we have now, India has made amazing progress and has become a shining example of how unity can come from diversity.**
4. **On this special day, I pay my respects to the brave members of our armed forces and the police, who protect our nation. Arunachal Pradesh is a great example of how the military and civilians work together, supporting peace and development in areas like disaster management, border security, and community efforts.**
5. **As citizens, let's recommit ourselves to our responsibilities and work together to strengthen the values that hold our society together. By doing so, we can ensure that each person plays a part in making our nation better for all.**

## **National Highlights**

6. **Under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, our country has been achieving great success and making a mark on the world in many areas. This past year has shown our nation's strength, progress, and leadership in several important fields.**
7. **In terms of the economy, India has kept growing strong, despite challenges from the rest of the world. India is now one of the fastest-growing large economies. According to the RBI's report in December 2024, India's economy is expected to grow by 6.6% in 2024-25. This is thanks to more investments, a strong services sector, and rising local spending. Our exports, especially in technology and medicine, have also seen a big increase.**
8. **India's athletes have made us proud on the world stage. At the 2024 Summer Olympics, Indian players won several medals, including Neeraj Chopra and Manu Bhaker, who inspired the entire country with their achievements. In chess, D. Gukesh became the youngest world champion ever after defeating Ding Liren from China. India also had its best-ever performance at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, winning 29 medals.**

9. Our country's tech startups and innovation-driven businesses are growing fast, making India a major player in technology and entrepreneurship. The government's focus on digital infrastructure and support for startups has brought in international investors, showing that India is a top destination for tech investments.

10. Even with global economic difficulties, India's business ecosystem has proven its strength. Important changes like removing the angel tax on startup investments in July 2024 have made things even better.

11. As India moves forward in 2025, these accomplishments show the country's strong progress in areas like the economy, global influence, technology, sports, and social development. The years ahead are full of promise, as India continues to grow and lead in many fields.

### **Viksit Arunachal**

12. Arunachal Pradesh is making great strides in line with India's vision of becoming a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. Under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu Ji, our state is seeing impressive progress in various areas, ensuring growth that benefits everyone while focusing on sustainable development.

13. Our economy is growing at a rate of about 11.01%, which is higher than the national average. This shows the commitment of the people of Arunachal Pradesh to continue on the path of development and improvement.

14. As of October 2024, over 13.6 lakh Aadhaar numbers have been generated in Arunachal Pradesh, covering nearly 89% of the state's expected population for 2024. This is a significant step in ensuring that all citizens have access to government services and benefits.

15. I'm also pleased to share that we have achieved 100% coverage in 11 out of 17 major national schemes. This means that essential services like shelter, electricity, sanitation, water, healthcare, and employment opportunities have reached even the most remote parts of our state, improving the lives of marginalized communities.

16. Over the years, governance at the district level in Arunachal Pradesh has made great progress. National schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, and MGNREGA have played a huge role in improving infrastructure, healthcare, and job opportunities for the people.

17. Through initiatives like Sarkar AapkeDwar and Seva AapkeDwar 2.0, nearly 14 lakh beneficiaries have received government services directly at their doorsteps. With the upcoming Arun Parivar Patra, we aim to build a transparent and accountable system to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

18. I'm proud to share that Ms. Yanung Jamoh Lego from Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded the Padma Shri Award for Agriculture in 2024. Her dedication to agricultural development and innovation has made a significant impact on the community and serves as an inspiration to others.

19. The State Government has focused on 24 initiatives that include fully digitizing financial systems, service delivery, enhancing ease of living, quality of life, Ease of doing business and creating Institute for transforming Arunachal.

20. We are also preparing vision plans for each district and strengthening local administrations, bringing in a "Bottom-Up Planning" approach to involve local communities in decision-making and make democracy stronger.

21. The State Government is committed to making life easier for people and businesses by cutting down on unnecessary rules, getting rid of old laws, and creating a simpler, more efficient system for delivering government services. We are also setting up a central citizen data repository to make these services more accessible.

22. In education, we are fully adopting the National Education Policy 2020 and working on plans to bring top educational institutions to Arunachal Pradesh. We're also revamping the Dulari Kanya Scheme to encourage more girls to pursue education.

23. For women's empowerment, we aim to help 21,000 women earn over Rs 1 lakh a year by giving them the resources and support to reach "Lakhpati Didi" status. We are also introducing policies to boost agriculture, horticulture, and handicrafts, encouraging natural farming and supporting local crafts.

24. Our infrastructure plans focus on making sure everyone has 100% connectivity—both physical and digital—and creating a system to track public infrastructure in real time. We are also updating the Master Plan for Itanagar-Naharlagun Twin City to support sustainable urban growth.

25. To create more jobs, the State Government has adopted the 'SEE Trinity' approach, which stands for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Employment. This initiative aims to create over 25,000 job and self-employment opportunities. We are also planning new policies to support youth through sports and other opportunities.

26. Industrialization and tourism are key areas of focus. A new Industrial Policy will support non-polluting industries in certain sectors, while a new Tourism Policy will promote eco-tourism and film tourism to help Arunachal Pradesh make the most of its natural beauty and potential.

27. I am proud to share that Arunachal Pradesh has earned the 'Achievers' status in the North-Eastern Group alongside Assam, according to the LEADS-2024 report. This recognition highlights the work being done to improve our logistics sector and attract sustainable investments.

28. Recognizing the importance of local governance, the Arunachal Pradesh government recently held a conference with all Deputy Commissioners under the theme of "Sashakt Arunachal." This theme reflects our vision for a strong, self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh, where every district thrives through effective governance, sustainable development, and empowered citizens. I commend these efforts to make sure policies are implemented effectively at the local level.

#### **'Year of Youth'**

29. We had declared 2024-25 as the 'Year of Youth' to focus the energy and enthusiasm of our young people on the path of growth and development.

30. The State Government has been supporting youth by sending them for both basic and advanced skill training in adventure sports like river rafting, scuba diving, and paragliding. These training programs have been held at top institutes in New Delhi, Darjeeling, Uttarakhand, Chennai, Patiala and also in NIMAS Dirang. Our goal is to help young people develop new skills and tap into the growing adventure tourism potential in Arunachal Pradesh.

31. On the National Startup Day, the State Government launched the 4th edition of the Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development Programme (APEDP 4.0). This program encourages youth to become job creators, not just job seekers, helping to create employment and promote economic growth in Arunachal Pradesh.

32. On June 21, 2024, the State Government hosted an exciting celebration of International Day of Yoga at Raj Bhawan and the SLSA Complex in Itanagar. The event showcased how yoga can be a powerful tool for enhancing both physical fitness and mental clarity, inspiring young people to embrace a holistic approach to well-being.

33. The Yuva Utsav, or State Youth Festival, was held across various districts. This event, organized in partnership with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Itanagar, aimed to involve youth in cultural and educational activities.

34. We also hosted the North East Zone Sport Climbing Competition in Roing in December. This event, organized with the Indian Mountain Federation, showed the State's commitment to promoting sports and adventure activities.

35. Under the Viksit Bharat Young Leadership Dialogue, we held the Viksit Bharat PPT Challenge. About 7,000 young people participated, from which 11 were selected to represent Arunachal Pradesh at the National Youth Festival 2025 in New Delhi.

36. In the first weeks of January 2025, a 57-member team from Arunachal Pradesh represented our state at the 28th National Youth Festival in New Delhi. Their participation showcased how actively our youth are involved in national events.

37. To celebrate the birth anniversary of our greatest youth icon Swami Vivekananda, we observed National Youth Day with various activities such as competition for stories, essays, poetry, and public speaking. I am sure the energetic and dedicated youth of Arunachal Pradesh can take the great ideals of Swamiji forward to build a 'Viksit Arunachal'.

#### **Infrastructure and Connectivity**

38. Friends, we have come a long way to improve our communications infrastructure in the State.

39. The State Government is improving public transportation by offering subsidized bus services, luxury e-class buses, and better ticketing through a new e-ticketing portal. By February 2025, 10 green fuel e-buses will be serving routes in ICR and the foothills.

40. Donyi Polo Airport has been operating every day since July 31, 2024. It now has flights connecting Itanagar with Delhi and Kolkata. A new terminal is being built to handle the increasing number of passengers.

41. Significant progress has also been made in aviation infrastructure. The Civil Terminal at ALG Tuting was completed in April 2024, and the Terminal and Office Building at Naharlagun Heliport was finished in June 2024.

42. Alliance Air started flights on the Dornier DO-228 aircraft in August 2024, connecting Guwahati to Pasighat, Ziro, and Tezu. Additionally, ATR 72 flights for interstate travel began in October 2024, connecting places like Tezu, Jorhat, Pasighat, and Shillong.

43. The State Government is also improving roads. Under the Arunachal Package of Roads & Highways, over 4,000 km of National Highways are being developed to connect all district headquarters. Major road projects like the Potin-Pangin road (NH-13) and the Lalpul-Manmao-Changlang road (NH-215) are ongoing, and work on the Frontier Highway continues in mission mode.

44. Through the Chief Minister's Comprehensive State Road Development Plan, over 250 km of district roads have been improved. The new plan for 2024-29 aims to develop 975 km of roads and replace 32 bridges, with a budget of nearly 2,500 crores. Additionally, 19 road projects funded by the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund are also underway.

45. The State Government has made great progress in improving the power sector across Arunachal Pradesh. We've also completed a major project to establish an 11 KV line to bring power from the Preet Micro Hydel Plant at Vijaynagar, providing electricity to four villages and ten other settlements.

46. We have also introduced 33 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear technology in several districts to improve the reliability of power systems.

47. Smart street lighting systems, controlled by a mobile app, have been installed in towns like Itanagar, Tawang, and Namsai to save energy and reduce waste.

48. I am excited to share about the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, a program that will provide free electricity connections through solar power to eligible households. This will not only make electricity more affordable but also promote clean energy, helping to build a greener future for Arunachal Pradesh.

49. Friends, Arunachal Pradesh has huge potential for hydroelectric power. I am given to understand that once this potential is fully utilized, our State will become the richest State in all of India. The Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project and the Dibang Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project will become the pride of Arunachal Pradesh once completed, as these will be the largest in India.

50. However, the people of the Siang basin, particularly the Adi community, face serious risks due to dam construction upstream in Tibet. The potential impact on Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and other downstream areas is very concerning.

51. That's why the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project is so important. It will protect the Adi community and the entire Siang belt from these dangers. This project is not just about energy; it's about national security. The Government of India has recognized its importance by declaring it a National Project.

52. The State Government is committed to working closely with the local community, ensuring that development respects our culture, protects our rights, and benefits the long-term prosperity of the state. Let's work together with unity and understanding for the well-being of everyone.

## **Education**

53. Friends, on this Republic Day, as we celebrate our democracy and progress, it's a great time to reflect on the improvements in education here in Arunachal Pradesh. Education is the foundation of a strong society, and the State Government is dedicated to provide quality education and skill development platforms for all. I am proud of the steps we are taking to shape the future of our youth and transform our education system.

54. Key initiatives like the "Commercial Pilot Licenses Scheme" and the "Arunachal Pradesh Academic Excellence Scholarship" have been devised for providing important financial support for skill development and higher education. We are also helping youth pursue training for merchant navy courses at recognized institutes.

55. The "Golden Jubilee Merit Award" and financial support for UPSC qualifiers encourage academic excellence. We are also working with Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya under the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" program to promote cultural exchange.

56. I am pleased to announce that we've launched the ARUN Schools for Rising India (SHRI) Mission, in line with the PM SHRI Mission. This will modernize and improve the quality of education in our schools, creating brighter opportunities for our youth.

57. Our hard work is paying off. According to the 2024 SDG scorecard, we have achieved a 100% enrolment rate in elementary education and reduced the dropout rate at the secondary level to 11.7%. The percentage of trained teachers at the secondary level has increased to 91.2%, and the pupil-teacher ratio is now 11, helping improve student-teacher interactions.

58. We're investing in vocational training, STEM education, and modern laboratories to boost employability and academic performance. Programs like the 100 Days Reading Campaign and School Readiness Programs are helping reduce dropouts and ensure age-appropriate learning.

59. Friends, building better school infrastructure for your children is a top priority. I am happy to inform you that we are constructing 30 new higher secondary schools with Rs150 crores and upgrading 50 schools into Golden Jubilee Schools with Rs 500 crores from the Government of India. We are also investing in hostels, teachers' quarters, and accommodations for students.

60. It's a proud moment for us to have completed India's first 3D printed classrooms, and we are working towards creating India's first fully 3D printed school.



61. Through the Mukhya Mantri Shiksha Kosh, we've hired over 900 contractual teachers and plan to recruit 600 more. We are also setting up Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training in Dirang and Roing to improve the quality of education.

62. We are committed to preserving our cultural heritage by integrating indigenous history and teaching local languages with the help of community-based organizations. We are also setting up New Age Learning Centers in every district and working on policies to attract top educational institutions to Arunachal Pradesh.

63. With support from Government of India, so far ten Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been sanctioned. Five are already up and running, three are under construction, and two will open in 2025. These schools will provide free education to ST children from class VI to XII in residential set up.

64. Establishment of the Tribal Research Institute is another important step in preserving and promoting tribal culture and heritage. The institute will serve as a research hub, benefiting both the state and the nation.

#### **Towards a 'Swasth Arunachal'**

65. Friends, as we celebrate Republic Day and the vision of a developed and prosperous India, it's important to recognize that a healthy population is the foundation of a developed Arunachal. The health sector is key to shaping the future of our state, ensuring everyone has access to quality healthcare and the chance to live a fulfilling life.

66. I'm proud to share that Arunachal Pradesh is a leader in the "Zero Hunger" Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), with a score of 81 compared to India's 52, placing us third in the country. This shows the State Government's commitment to strengthening healthcare, expanding access to essential services, and promoting wellness across all communities. A healthy Arunachal is a vital part of our journey towards a prosperous, self-reliant state, contributing to India's overall growth.

67. Recent improvements in maternal and child health, like the Mother and Child Information and Care Kits, have made a big impact. These programs address important needs like antenatal care, safe delivery practices, and postnatal health. Institutional births now make up 79.2% of total deliveries, a clear sign of progress.

68. Arunachal has also embraced technology to improve healthcare. The 'Medicine from the Sky' initiative, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, uses drones to deliver medical supplies and samples to remote areas, breaking down geographic barriers. In the pilot phase, over 16,000 medical items were delivered across large distances, showing the potential of this model.

69. The Chief Minister Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) has also been a game-changer. More than 6.3 lakh people are enrolled, and Rs105 crores worth of claims have been paid for the treatment of over 42,000 patients. With hospitals both within and outside the state, including CMC Vellore and Tata Memorial, this scheme has proven to be highly beneficial.

70. To tackle the rising cancer rates, particularly stomach, liver, and cervical cancers, the State is setting up a State Cancer Institute in Midpu, Itanagar. We have also launched community-based cancer screening programs, supported by mobile screening vans and awareness campaigns. Partnerships with institutions like Tata Memorial are further strengthening these efforts.

71. Our healthcare campaigns, Government of India has recognized our 'Namsai Model,' which combines services for HIV, Hepatitis, TB, and NCDs, focusing on vulnerable populations. These programs, with their cultural relevance and local involvement, have been effective in improving disease detection and treatment.

72. Finally, we are advancing in digitizing healthcare in the state. The Integrated Health Management Information System (iHMIS) is now in use at 564 healthcare facilities. Telemedicine hubs, the eSwasthya Arunachal app, and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) are all contributing to better health outcomes and reducing costs for patients.

### **Aatmanitbhar Arunachal**

73. Friends, agriculture is the backbone of our economy, and the State Government has made great strides to improve opportunities for our farmers.

74. Last year, the state produced over 5.19 lakh metric tons of food grains, nearly 15,000 metric tons of pulses, and over 39,000 metric tons of oilseeds. We've set up 15 soil testing laboratories and issued over 1.3 lakh soil health cards to farmers. Oil palm cultivation grew by 4,690 hectares, and 1,974 farmers benefited from the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme.

75. Arunachal Pradesh has set an ambitious target of bringing 35,723 hectares under oil palm cultivation by 2025-26. The state has also established the country's first Crude Palm Oil mill at Roing, boosting farmer confidence. A new factory is being developed at the Industrial Growth Centre Niglok, Ruksin, to ensure enough processing capacity.

76. The PM-KISAN scheme registered 1.14 lakh farmers, and 46 Farmers Producers Companies (FPCs) were formed, supporting over 15,000 farmers. Additionally, 50 Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) were set up to boost collective farming.

77. The Agri-Mechanization Programme distributed 55 tractors, 82 power tillers, and other equipment, helping farmers increase productivity. The Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board also launched Mission Arun Himveer to supply fresh produce to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and signed an MoU with Lulu Hypermarket LLC, Dubai, to promote agricultural exports.

78. In addition, 38 metric tons of pineapples were exported, 28,000 hectares converted to organic farming, and new aggregation centers were set up. These efforts earned us the Chief Minister's Award for Excellence and the Best Performance Award for the Soil Health & Fertility Scheme from the Ministry of Agriculture.

79. We are also promoting tea and rubber cultivation. Training programs for quality upgradation in tea and rubber were held, helping farmers enhance the quality and productivity of these crops.

80. Arunachal Pradesh showcased its products at the 43rd India International Trade Fair in New Delhi, with 20 stalls representing 48 entrepreneurs, including women's self-help groups and businesses in food processing, tea, handicrafts, and more.

81. In rural development, under MG-NREGA, over 3.3 lakh job cards were issued, generating more than 13 million person-days of work. The WDC-PMKSY 2.0 scheme has focused on soil conservation and water management, covering 150,000 hectares across 25 districts.

82. The PMAY-Grameen scheme has successfully met its target of over 35,000 pucca houses, with 100% achievement in both urban and rural targets for the current period.

83. In waste management, 24 out of 27 census towns will soon have material recovery facilities, with 8 already operational. We're also procuring 46 sanitation vehicles, making visible changes in cleanliness, particularly in Itanagar and district towns. I encourage everyone to contribute to a cleaner Arunachal.

84. In the mines and minerals sector, the government has taken steps to auction critical minerals like graphite and vanadium, contributing to Arunachal's self-sufficiency.

85. Finally, I am happy to inform you that for the first time ever, an external investor, Seven Sisters Pvt Ltd. From Hyderabad has obtained trade license to set up a bio-charcoal plant in Likabali. This is a critical step forward to become an industrialized economy and become 'Aatmanirbhar'.

### **Law and Order**

86. I commend our police force for maintaining law and order, peace, and harmony in society, preventing loss of life and property. They are always active in making arrests and recovering arms and ammunition.

87. To improve policing in the city and manage traffic better, the State Government has created the Itanagar Capital Range under a Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP), with separate Police districts for Itanagar and Naharlagun, and a dedicated SP for traffic management.

88. We've also strengthened our cyber security by setting up a new Cyber Police Station at Chimpu.

89. Substance abuse remains a major issue, and I urge all youth to pledge to quit drugs. There are many positive paths you can take to improve your life. I call on youth icons to step forward and lead the way in helping others avoid the dangers of substance abuse.

90. The Anti-Narcotics Task Force is working hard in the fight against drugs. Last year, 242 drug cases were registered, leading to 418 arrests, and large quantities of narcotics were seized.

91. Following the success of Operation Dawn 1.0, the State is launching Operation Dawn 2.0 to target major drug traffickers, dismantle the supply chain, and destroy drug sources. We are also running "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan" awareness campaigns to reduce drug abuse across the State.

### **Social Development and Tribal Affairs**

92. Friends, as part of our commitment to fostering inclusive growth, the State Government has launched several key initiatives aimed at uplifting tribal communities and supporting vulnerable populations across Arunachal Pradesh. These efforts are focused on improving infrastructure, empowering individuals with disabilities, and ensuring social security for the elderly, widows, and those with disabilities.

93. I am happy to inform that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned 75 projects worth about Rs 100 Crores, focusing on education, health, roads, and bridges to improve infrastructure and services in tribal areas.

94. I compliment the Government for introducing 'Purple Fest' to empower people with disabilities, to celebrate their achievements and promote social inclusion.

95. The Chief Minister's Social Security Scheme (CMSSS) has been vital in supporting vulnerable populations, offering pension schemes for widows, the elderly, and disabled citizens. It currently benefits over 61,000 individuals under the Old Age Pension Scheme, nearly 10,000 under the Widow Pension Scheme, and over 4,000 under the Disability Pension Scheme.

96. Union Cabinet's approval of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, that will transform the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities which will be implemented in 329 villages across 23 districts in Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Conclusion**

97. Looking ahead, I want to assure everyone that the State Government will focus on achieving 100% saturation of Direct Benefit Transfers. By using the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile (JAM) system, we will make sure that all eligible people get their benefits quickly and accurately. We will also remove any ineligible beneficiaries and save money for both the Government and citizens.

98. The State Government is committed to making life easier for people, improving their quality of life, and creating a better environment for businesses. We will review the current processes for applying to schemes, reduce unnecessary paperwork, and make sure citizens are not asked for irrelevant information. We are also working to get rid of outdated and unnecessary laws.

99. These steps will help us become self-sufficient. Let us all work together towards an "Atma Nirbhar" Arunachal Pradesh, contributing to India's growth as a global leader. Every effort from each citizen brings us closer to this goal.

100. We are in the early years of 'Amrit Kaal', a transformative period leading to India's centenary of independence. This is our golden opportunity to elevate our nation, and every citizen's contribution is vital. I urge everyone to honour the Fundamental Duties enshrined in our Constitution as essential responsibilities for building a developed Bharat by 2047.

101. Finally, I once again wish you all a very happy 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, the brave soldiers guarding our borders, and to all fellow countrymen on this special occasion.

**Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!**