



ADDRESS

OF

Lt. General KT Parnaik,

PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.)

GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

IN THE

39th STATEHOOD DAY CELEBRATION

AT

INDIRA GANDHI PARK, ITANAGAR

ON

20th February 2025

1. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the beloved citizens of Arunachal Pradesh on our 39th Statehood Day. It is indeed a day of reckoning and celebration for having set out on a transformative journey of progress and development since the last decade.

2. We have all the reasons to be proud of our unity in diversity. Our common goals and aspirations to take a leap of faith and chart our path of development as per collective will of the people, while embracing the guiding principles and values encapsulated in our constitution.

3. Arunachal Pradesh is blessed with abundance of nature, a green State, which never indulged in any insurgencies, unlike other North Eastern States, where all people speak one common language and where nationalistic feelings abound with resounding greetings of 'Jai Hind', in a spirit of unity and pride.

4. We express our sincere gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for a dedicated focus on the development of entire North Eastern Region.

The 'Look East' policy has now moved on to 'Act East'-Act Now'. We serve as the 'Gateway to South East Asia' and a major stakeholder in India's 'Act East' policy.

5. Significantly, Arunachal Pradesh occupies a strategically important place due to sensitive and disturbed borders with Tibet-China and Myanmar. Our people have stood firm with our Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces to help them protect our long arduous borders.

6. We are proud of the fact that a vibrant system of self governance and grass root democracy has existed in Arunachal Pradesh for centuries. Democratic institutions like Buliang, Kebang and Mukchum, deserved their authority from people's will and people's power. Tribal culture imbibes the core principle of true democracy and good governance by being fair, transparent and accountable in fulfilling the aspirations of its community. Our transition from North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) to Union Territory to a full-fledged State, has empowered Arunachal Pradesh with greater political autonomy, allowing us to chart our own path of progress and prosperity.

7. Today, we honour the legacy of our unsung heroes like Matmur Jamoh and Moje Riba, among others who stood as beacon of courage and conviction advocating for rights and self determination of our people. Their sacrifices and dedication to the cause of Arunachal Pradesh's autonomy led to our Statehood. Let us draw inspiration from their unwavering resolve and continue to work to fulfil their dreams of building a 'Viksit Arunachal'

CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT OF GOVT. OF INDIA

8. We have received exceptional support from the Government of India in all our initiatives, exemplifying the collaborative potential of a 'Double Engine Government'. We express our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and the entire Union Government for their dedicated focus on the entire North-eastern region, with particular attention to Arunachal Pradesh.

9. The Central 'Yojnas' propelled to uplift the marginalised societies, conform to the 'Human Development Indices', be it, Sadak, Bijli, Paani, Awas, Swasth, Shiksha, Doorsanchar, empowering women and generating an economic ecosystem. They are making our border villages vibrant and self sustaining, giving opportunities to our youth to be educated, skilled and capable to lead the state in this 'Amrit Kaal'. It is propelling good governance and ensuring safety and well being of all citizens in the spirit of 'Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Prayas Aur Sab Ka Viswas'. A unifying Guru Mantra that will unite the country in its triumphant journey to become Viksit Bharat.

STATE INITIATIVES

10. Our State Govt is committed to enhancing the quality of life of citizen, ease of living and ease of doing business in the state.

- 24 key initiatives aimed at improving governance, reforming administrative mechanisms and improving citizen service delivery have been approved in the first Cabinet Meeting.
- New Policies on Tourism, Industrial, Agriculture and Horticulture as well as One Weave Mission are being implemented. An Institute for Transforming Arunachal as 'Policy Think Tank' has also been created.
- An Administrative Reform Commission has been recently constituted to monitor & improve quality of life while strengthening offices of Deputy Commissioner by providing them operative autonomy and decentralise decision making
- New Youth Policy, by declaring 2025 as 'Year of the Youth'.
- Building on success of 'Sewa Apke Dwar: 2.0' to cover 100% eligible beneficiaries.
- 'Cabinet Aap Ke Dwar' is being held in Districts (Nyapin – 17 Feb 25) to understand their problems. Also refined Budget allocation and financial planning through a 'Bottoms Up' process is being followed.

Success Stories

11. Central and State level Governance has resulted in numerous success stories in last 8 years.

(a) Infrastructure. We have constructed over 4000 Kms of roads in last 8 years, connecting vibrant villages in all valleys and connecting all District Headquarters through two-lane highways, with the State Capital. A 1748 km, Frontier Highway ensuring inter valley connectivity is progressing in mission mode.

(b) Hydro Power. We have a capacity of 58,000 MW, almost 40% of the Country's capacity. The Lower Subansiri Hydro Project (2000 MW) is in advance stage of commissioning (2026). Dibang Multipurpose Hydro Project (2880 MW) one of India's largest is under construction and 13 Stalled projects with total capacity of 12,723 MW have received approvals. Of these, Siang Upper Multipurpose Project has emerged as an indispensable Strategic Project of national importance, essential for safety of the Adi Community, Siang belt and safeguarding Arunachal Pradesh from consequences of unforeseen actions by Upper Riparian State (China). Surplus power will generate over Rs.10,000 Crores revenue per year.

(c) Plantation. We have potential of growing Oil Palm in 45000 Hec (5000 H achieved) which will make India self sufficient in Palm Oil.

(d) Education. As a Priority Sector, 30 Higher Secondary Schools are being constructed, with an additional 50 schools being upgraded to Golden Jubilee Schools. We are also establishing New Age Learning Centres in all Districts and Ten Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been sanctioned (5 constructed and 5 under construction). A Tribal Research Institute is also under construction.

(e) Agriculture: The State produces over 5, 19,703 MT of food grains, 14,902 MT pulses and 39,128 MT of Oil Seed. State also produces largest quantity of Kiwi and Khasi Mandarin Orange, all of which is planned to be exported.

(f) Year of the Youth: 2025 has been declared as the 'Year of the Youth', acknowledging the role and responsibility of our youth, in entrepreneurship, sports, innovation, education and cultural excellence. They need to be moulded as future ready leaders of the State. Our youth have already made the State proud by winning many sports medals in National and International sports competitions.

(g) Lakhpati Didi: The immense potential of women SHGs is witnessing a revolution in remote villages where economic activities were once scarce. These SHGs have become 'Agents of Change'. They are taking charge of their destinies and contributing substantially to their household. Over 4,332 women have already earned over 1 lakh rupees annually and it is planned to assist 25,000 women to achieve their status. When a women succeeds the family thrives and when families thrive the nation prosper.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND VISION

12. While the State has achieved tremendous traction on a developmental path, we also needs to focus on areas which can be improved.

13. Challenges

(a) Education: We must ensure all children complete their education (10 plus 2). Drop outs must be totally reduced. Only when our children complete their education, we can hope to have our own teachers, engineers and doctors – reducing dependency on other States. Students should be groomed to be educated, disciplined and motivated.

(b) Health & hygiene: Cleanliness is next to godliness. We have to work on a mission mode to keep our premises / areas clean. Charity begins at home. Waste disposal has to be tackled in a systematic manner, starting from villages to cities to tourist circuits. A Green State must create a pleasing environment devoid of illegal structures, encroachments and unplanned construction. Our roads and highways must inspire the travellers. Volunteers at village and society levels must take initiatives to ensure cleanliness, while technological solutions will be necessary to convert waste to power and product.

(c) Drug Menace: Proliferation of drugs and its abuse amongst the youth, destroys our social fabric. We have to fight this menace on two levels.

(i) Preventive measures: There is a need to use technology to determine the established pattern of drug distribution and cultivation of poppy. Satellite imageries will be a very useful tool to do so. The Arunachal Pradesh Police has been made aware of this. Also it should be the duty of parents, Gaon Burahs, PRI members and tribal community and school teachers to report individuals getting addicted. Rigorous awareness campaigns by government, police, universities, social organizations will help.

(ii) Rehabilitation: Due care be taken for counselling and rehab. SHGs and volunteers are doing a great job. Those recovered must be engaged in activities like sports and be skilled for generic duties. Select reformed persons could be made Anti Drug Ambassadors of the State, to assist those in rehab centre. Necessary incentives will help.

(d) Technology absorption: It is necessary to use technology to improve systems, switch to e-governance, facilitate education, automate data and develop Apps to monitor projects. It will help in timely completion of projects, reduce mal practices and bring functional efficiency in administration.

(e) Tourism: Good infrastructure and improved hospitality facilities are necessary to attract tourist. While the State Government is working on these issues, as individuals we too can contribute by creating a positive environment to receive and facilitate the tourists.

(f) Transparency and accountability: A collective resolve to ensure transparency and accountability can bring about positivity and efficiency in our system.

VISION

14. We hold a vision for a future characterized by growth, prosperity, and well-being. In recognizing these aspirations, efforts are being directed towards enhancing road networks, digital infrastructure, and public services, all aimed at improving the quality of life for every citizen.

15. There are moments which shape and define history. For us, today, is one of these moments. Today is an opportunity for us to reflect on the State we wish to leave to our future generations.

It is for us to decide the continued path of development we wish to chart to build a 'Viksit Arunachal'. I am sure that every person, every woman, every child of Arunachal will rise to this occasion with determination and enthusiasm.

16. At this pivotal moment, let us commit to a vision of inclusive, sustainable progress. By harnessing Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage and resources, investing in education, and empowering our youth, we can create a brighter future. Let's build bridges of understanding, embrace our diversity, and draw strength from unity. Let us try and improve our Gross State Happiness. The choices we make today will resonate through generations – let us choose wisely and act boldly for our State's success and harmony.

Jai Arunachal,

Jai Hind !