

[Assembly Address by H.E. Gen \(Retd\) J J Singh PVSM, AVSM, VSM,
Governor, Arunachal Pradesh on 18.03.08](#)

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

I deem it a privilege to welcome you to this Tenth Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly.

1. Let me first pay homage to Late Smti Omem Deori and Late Shri Wangcha Rajkumar, whom we lost this year. Late Deori and late Rajkumar will continue to reside in our hearts for ever.

2. The year 2007-2008 has been a very eventful year for our State. Shri Dorjee Khandu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh on 9th April 2007. Despite various constraints and variables my Government is continuing to achieve all-round development of the State. Today, Arunachal Pradesh is going through a historical phase of development and modernization, and we are rapidly marching towards our goal of peace and prosperity and a bright future for the coming generations. Our contribution as the highest policy making body of the State, at this juncture, should therefore, be pro-active and visionary. We should all collectively leave an imprint on the history of our beloved Arunachal Pradesh by hard work and sincere endeavors.

3. I am happy to share with you that my Government has successfully surmounted two major crises that have been affecting the life of people adversely. It goes to the credit of Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri Khandu that despite several odds he could manage to revive the Public Distribution System and the APEX bank. In order to fulfill his commitment for improving the Public Distribution System, six base-depots of Food Corporation of India have been opened within our State which has given a great amount of food security and also arrested the misuse and diversion of the PDS items. As on today, we have got more than 1500 MT of food grain stocks in four out of six depots. The APEX bank, which was defunct for many years, is now revived and now functioning smoothly. This single step has benefited more than one lakh and forty thousand customers, majority of who are extremely poor and are from very remote areas. The Government has also taken a keen initiative to eliminate corruption.

4. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's recent visit is an event of historical significance. Various important developmental programmes of over ten thousand crore have been announced by the Prime Minister. Hence, we are confident that within a reasonable span of time, Arunachal Pradesh will catch up with other developed states of our country. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiatives such as Trans-Arunachal Highway, Border Village Illumination Programme, connection of 513 habitations by roads under PMGSY, green-field airport at Itanagar, rail connectivity for Capital region are revolutionary as far as the betterment of socio-economic profile of this state is concerned. I must congratulate the Chief Minister Shri Khandu for successfully convincing the Central Government about the need for rapid socio-economic development of the state and also I must thank all those who contributed immensely

towards the envisionment of the historical package announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

5. Sanctions have been obtained for the new Assembly and Secretariat buildings. Many of our infrastructure projects such as two lane highway connectivity for all the districts, safe drinking water supply for Itanagar, operationalisation of airports at Pasighat, Along, Daporijo, Ziro, Tezu, Tuting, Mechuka, Vijaynagar and Walong, one time grant for long term reconstruction of flood damaged assets, one time grant for completing long pending incomplete schemes, initiating hydro-electric power development, helicopter service between Tawang and Guwahati and so on, were sanctioned by the Central Government. Apart from these visible achievements there have been many tangible and intangible achievements of the Government for which it deserves appreciation.

6. Hon'ble Members, let me reiterate what the Hon'ble Prime Minister said on 31st January at Itanagar. Quote, *'My visit to Itanagar is associated with the launch of several new projects. A new dawn of progress and prosperity is about to break out in this beautiful State. Today, we have a definite strategy for the development of Arunachal Pradesh. There are four major areas where we need to work if we have to ensure the rapid development of the State:*

- a. *The state needs good connectivity with the rest of the country- through roads, railways and air-ports.*

- b. *There is a need for good infrastructure within the state.*
- c. *The people of Arunachal Pradesh need much better educational and health facilities.*
- d. *And most importantly, the state needs all round Economic development- in tourism, in food processing, through large scale power projects. ‘Unquote.*

7. The Hon’ble Members of this legislative assembly, as the highest policy making institution in the State, should understand the developmental strategy chalked out by Hon’ble Prime Minister. All our future plans, programmes and policies should evolve on this four pronged strategy.

8. It would be appropriate to brief this august house about various reforms initiated by my Government:

- i) My Government has instructed all the departments to launch their web-sites giving all vital information to ensure greater transparency.
- ii) We have already started the process of Registration of Contractors under PWD.

- iii) State government is formulating a 'Rural Road Maintenance Policy'.
- iv) We have already started our march for realization of 55000 MW hydro-potential with enactment of the Hydro-power Policy 2007. Regarding Hydro-Power development, Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech at Itanagar had said *'If we build similar projects across the State, then the state can generate annual revenues of Rs 3000 crores to 4000 crores. This single step alone can change the fortune of the state.'*
- v) In order to attract more private investments, we are planning to bring the 'New Industrial Policy.' We have also developed our Tourism Policy. Arunachal Pradesh's full potential for tourism must be exploited. We will endeavour to streamline procedures for easier access of tourists to areas of interest, keeping overall security interest in mind.
- vi) On the Urban Development, we have enacted the 'Arunachal Pradesh Urban and Country Planning Bill' and 'Arunachal Pradesh Municipality Bill 2007'.
- vii) Many such reforms in various sectors such as Education, Health, PDS etc have been either initiated or in the pipe-line to ensure that the benefits of development reaches the target group.

9. The State's financial position is improving over the last few years. While in 2004-05, our annual plan size was Rs. 760.35 Cr, the annual plan size for the year 2008-09, fixed by the Planning Commission is Rs. 2065 Cr. This is around three times increase in just four years. My Government is thankful to the Planning Commission of India for providing tremendous support by increasing the plan size by almost 36% over the last year. I must appreciate the team led by the Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu and Finance Minister Shri Kalikho Pul for being able to increase the plan size to this level. This will go a long way in reducing the developmental gap in the State.

10. During 2007-08, we initiated 117 schemes amounting to Rs. 192.93 Cr under ACA/SPA spread over all 16 districts. Under NLCPR, till date, 93 Nos of projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 812 Cr has been sanctioned by the Ministry of DoNER. In one of the significant development, the Ministry of DoNER has retained 21 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 304.18 Cr. This also includes our dream project of the new Civil Secretariat Building.

11. Though the Government has constraints of financial resources, the need of the social sector is receiving utmost priority. Recently, the State Government has released Rs 20 Cr for stipends, benefiting more than 60,000 students. We are also trying to do our best to ensure that the Mid-day meal scheme is implemented in letter and spirit. Our achievements under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are commendable. Our gross enrollment increased to 2.86 lakhs in 2007-08 from 1.54 lakhs of 2001-02. During the same period the drop-out rate was brought down to

9.65 % from 48%. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, till date we have recruited around 3464 teachers and our achievement in civil works is 100%. My Government is committed to the development of both School and Higher Education during the 11th Five Year Plan. We also propose to construct around 2500 quarters for the teachers posted in remote areas of the State. Infrastructure upgradation of Higher Education will also receive priority. The Government will also work towards improving the quality of education. The Rajiv Gandhi University has been converted into a Central University by an Act of Parliament w.e.f 9th April 2007. The State Government also took over the Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic in 2007. One new government College was also established in Yachuli. Similarly, the Arunachal Pradesh State Council of Technical Education was established in June 2007. The State Government has decided to launch the EDUSAT programme with the hub at Rajiv Gandhi University with 50 nos of terminals located at various DIETs and Schools.

12. The Health Sector is also an important priority for the Government. Very recently the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced Rs. 50 Cr as Corpus fund for the Rama-Krishna Mission Hospital at Itanagar. A state of art MRI equipment along with a Dialysis machine will also be installed in the R K Mission hospital this year. My Government is also trying to up-grade the General Hospital of Naharlagan and also to establish a Medical College in the State. We will also concentrate on the institutional and residential infrastructure for the Health sector in remote areas. Our performance in NRHM is praise-

worthy; however a lot needs to be done in this field. Last year 32 Mobile Medical Units were launched and 11 Mega Health Melas were organized. The unique Public Private Partnership model adopted to run 16 Primary Health Centers is receiving great appreciation from all corners including the Planning Commission of India. However, the institute of ASHA needs to be made more vibrant. My Government has provided a sum of Rs. 4.5 Cr under decentralized plan to the Deputy Commissioners and the District Medical Officers to purchase need based quality medicines.

13. As a commitment to promote Art and Culture, the State Government provided Rs. 50.00 lakh as corpus fund for the NEZCC. A sum of Rs. 15.00 lakh has also been provided for the Shilpa-gram. I am happy to share with you that our Tai-Khampti cultural tableau participated in the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi and was much appreciated.

14. The Government is also giving due attention to other departments such as Fishery, Textile and Handicrafts etc. Full potential of the people's talents in handicraft will be exploited. These departments have the potential to improve the quality of life of the rural people. We have earmarked a special allocation for the repair of various craft centers in the State. Bee keeping and farming for organic Himalayan honey is being encouraged.

15. My Government is committed to the devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutes. The activity mapping on 29 subjects was

approved by the Cabinet and was released by the Chief Minister on 29th October 2007 as a first step towards devolution of powers to the PRIs. The Eleventh Finance Commission Grant of Rs 24 Cr was finally released to the PRIs this year. The Panchayati Raj Department has conducted Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan and Panchayat Yuwa Shakti Abhiyan at Itanagar this year.

16. During the 10th Plan, the Government of India sanctioned 19 Forest Development Agencies projects. Under this scheme 8854 Hectare area was brought under forest plantation through the participation of 364 Village Forest Management Committees. During the 11th Five year plan 22 FDA projects are proposed. Under National Bamboo Mission, Government of India has approved for raising 11,200 Hectare of bamboo plantation in 2007-08.

17. A special fund of Rs. 25 Cr was earmarked in 2007 for the Department of Tirap and Changlang to bridge the developmental gaps in these two insurgency affected districts.

18. One of the flag-ship programmes of the Central Government, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, is being implemented successfully in three districts namely Upper Subansiri, Lohit and Changlang. In 2008-09, this programme will be extended to all other districts.

19. During this year, my Government has taken keen initiative in the Tourism Sector. Due to our vigorous persuasion with the Central

Government, many projects were sanctioned for infrastructure development in the tourism sector such as Travel Circuit Development, Destination Development, Restoration and Preservation of Historical Sites etc. The Government has also taken steps to promote the Public Private Partnership in this sector. My Government is also actively pursuing with the Central Government to open up more areas as new tourist circuits. We are also actively working towards the relaxation of norms for the Protected Area Permit and also to make the process of issuing Inner Line Permit and PAP more tourist friendly.

20. My Government is committed to providing safe drinking water to each and every habitation in the State in a phased manner. The Water Supply project at Itanagar Phase-II has been sanctioned under JNNURM and work has already started.

21. My Government is also keen on converting the vast hydro-power potential of the State into a reality. In order to achieve this, the State Government has already formulated and notified the Hydro-power policy. So far the State government has allotted 53 Nos of HEPs with an estimated installed capacity of 24087.50 MW to various CPSUs and Private Developers. During the 11th Plan capacity addition of 2710 MW is being targeted under the Prime Minister's 50000 MW initiative.

22. In order to facilitate and encourage participation of local entrepreneurs and to ensure speedy development of small hydro-power projects, the state government has come out with a policy which, inter-alia, provides for exempting indigenous tribal entrepreneurs from

supplying free power to the State Government for projects upto 5 MW capacity.

23. Under the Central Government's Flagship programme Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), 1798 un-electrified and 331 de-electrified villages, 26 Nos of power sub-stations, 678.5 Kms of 33KV lines, 8043.92 Kms of 11 KV lines and 2980 nos of Distribution sub-stations will be created during next two years. Approximately Rs 950 Cr will be spent under this programme.

24. The State Government is committed to strengthen the capacity of the Government machinery to respond to disasters. Disaster Management Committees have been formed in 76 blocks and 2157 villages in 16 districts. 68 blocks and 1776 villages in 15 districts have prepared their Disaster Management Plans.

25. My Government is committed for promotion of Industries in the State. A high level delegation led by the Chief Minister participated in the business summit organised by DoNER and Govt. of Thailand in Bangkok. A new State Industrial Policy is under active consideration of the Government. The Industrial Training Institutes of Roing and Tabarijo will be upgraded to Centres of Excellence. The Industrial Growth Center at Niglok-Ngorlung will be a real boost for the industrial sector in the State.

26. Agriculture remains the top-most priority of my Government. This year we had a record production of agriculture produce. Today, we

produce 68% of our food-grain requirements and my Government will work hard towards ensuring 100% self sufficiency in food production. A new Central scheme called Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is being introduced to boost the State's investment under the Agriculture and Allied sectors. To encourage the under privileged, Organic Farming has been introduced in Arunachal Pradesh. The State has the potential to be the leading state in organic farming because the use of chemicals and inorganic fertilisers is still minimal.

27. Arunachal Pradesh is blessed with climatic and soil condition conducive for growing different varieties of fruits. Apples of Arunachal Pradesh are famous in the North-East and have made inroads in the Eastern Sector markets of India. According to our estimates, Arunachal Pradesh is the largest producer of oranges in the North-East. Kiwis from Arunachal are now being sold in the Metros and production is increasing every year. Presently, the only problems being faced is in marketing it properly and lack of cold storage facilities. The government has made provisions for refrigerated vans this year so that fresh fruits can be made available in the markets year round. On improvement of the power scenario the cold storage facilities will also be increased to cater to the needs of the fruit growers. We are also encouraging private participation in fruit processing for adding value to the produces.

28. Our performance under Prime Minister's Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been rated as one of the best in the country. Till date we have constructed 1591 kms of road connecting 309 villages. During Phase VII we plan to cover 84 villages with a road length of 694 kms.

At the Annual Plan discussions with the Planning Commission of India, the Planning Commission has recommended that the unconnected 19 administrative centres should also be included under PMGSY. In addition to this, the Hon'ble prime Minister has announced that 513 new villages will be connected by road under PMGSY.

29. My Government is also keen on strengthening District Administration which is the cutting edge of governance. We are actively pursuing the National E-Governance Action Plan for vertical and horizontal connectivity within various offices at the state, district, sub-division and circle level. The Single Window Citizen Facilitation Center, Jan-Suvidha, established in Tezu, will be replicated in other districts also.

30. Arunachal is referred to as an island of peace. It is a fact that the people of my state are peace loving and patriotic. But, we can not lose sight of the fact that we are surrounded by States which are prone to insurgency. Our districts in the eastern parts have been increasingly feeling the heat of militancy for almost two decades. An urgent corrective action is the need of the hour. Development can not be achieved when there is an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. Bringing back normalcy in Tirap and Changlang districts is the Government's fore-most priority. Towards this direction, necessary steps have already been initiated by both the State and the Central Governments. With the rapid urbanization of the Capital complex of Itanagar-Naharlagun, an urgent need is felt to strengthen the law and order and administrative machinery. Accordingly the State Government has approved the

creation and establishment of separate offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police for the Capital Region. This will ensure proper administration and policing of urban areas and consequently DC and SP of Papum Pare District can now concentrate on rural areas. Besides this, the Government has already initiated the necessary action for raising of third battalion of IRBn under which one thousand and four posts of different categories have been created. Recently the State Government has also approved creation of 496 posts for the Civil Police.

31. Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members, my Government is fully committed to the rapid socio-economic development of the state. The focus of all the policies will be to improve the quality of life for the people of the State. We are committed to carrying out the Government Process Re-engineering to make the Government machinery citizen friendly. We have launched many reforms in the administrative, engineering and policing machinery to ensure that the process of development continues at the optimum speed reaching to the poorest of the poor of the state. We will have to overcome the petty differences and also the localized development approach and come up with a common pan-Arunachalee feeling.

32. All the esteemed members of this legislative assembly are the custodians of the state and you all are going to play a vital role in development of this State in the near future. Today, our State is going through a transition phase and your efforts will make it one of the most developed states in the country. I hope that the ensuing deliberations

will be fruitful and will be held in its true spirit. Let me conclude my speech by quoting our Hon'ble Prime Minister, '*Arunachal Pradesh will rise from the east as a new star and become one of the best regions of our country*'.

33. Let us join hands to convert this dream into reality. My best wishes to you all.

Jai Hind!

Jai Arunachal !!