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### **Message**

As we are going to celebrate the Twenty-first anniversary of our State on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the people of our State.

Arunachal Pradesh attained the status of a full-fledged State on February 20, 1987, which was a historic and proud occasion for all of us. Since then, our State has made tremendous progress in various fields. I am confident that we will forge ahead with full determination to achieve all round developmental of our State and make sure that fruits of all developmental efforts reach to the people living in far flung areas, it is my unique experience that there is inherent amity amongst different tribes who live in perfect harmony with mutual respect to each other's customs, rituals and have a high regard for traditional culture and customary laws. Our State has retained the distinction of being the most peaceful atmosphere amidst its picturesque scenic beauty. But on the other hand, we cannot deny the fact that our State is surrounded by some underground elements which are posing threat to the lives and properties of our people and tend to impede development process by way of disturbing peace. So, it is my earnest appeal to all people of our State to be more vigilant and cooperate with the administrative machinery to unitedly fight against such anti-social elements and get rid of any sense of fear as the whole nation is with us.

During his recent visit to our State, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, while addressing the people of Arunachal Pradesh has expressed his heartfelt concern by saying- quote- "I believe that the progress and development of States like Arunachal Pradesh is a measure of the progress and development of the nation as a whole. Your progress will strengthen the nation." Unquote-

It should be our utmost endeavor to work hard in order to translate the vision of our beloved Prime Minister into reality.

During the last 45 years, we have progressed slowly and steadily. Today we have 18000 kms of road, around three thousand schools with more than 3 lakhs students, around 500 health institutions and so on I of course, on national standards, we are still much behind and have a long way to go. Our road density at 219 km per 100 sq kms is the least in the country, our index of social and economic infrastructure at 69.71 is also the least in the country, and our human development index is average. We have been working hard to implement all the flagship programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National rural health Mission, Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana, total Sanitation Campaign and Rajiv Gandhi

Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana and to ensure that the benefits of these programmes reach the remotest corners of the State as well.

Let me assure that once we develop our 55000 MW hydro -electric power potential by the end of thirteenth five year plan, we will not only be self- sufficient but will also contribute for rapid economic growth of the country. In three to four years, Itanagar will be connected with a 4-lane highway, about 513 inhabitants will now be connected with roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Our Government will build a 2- lane trans-Arunachal Pradesh highway. This highway will be a priority project which will go from tawang to Mahadevpur covering 1840 kms which will be one of the most important new road projects. The new rail link between Itanagar and Harmuti will reduce the travel time to destinations outside the State and provide more economical access. I am happy to announce that a new Greenfield airport will be coming up at Itanagar. Our Government will also be operationalising other airports at Pasighat, Along, Daporijo, Ziro and Tezu.

Our State can offer tourists diverse and unparalleled experiences with regard to mountaineering, trekking, and river rafting and so on. The marvelous natural beauty, varied flora and fauna and tourism potential of our state have been untapped so far. We should endeavor to encourage tourism in a big way by allowing the private sector also to explore this dimension and help in creating the required infrastructure.

On this happy occasion, I wish our State always shines as “The land of the rising Sun” and radiates our whole nation with the rays of peace, harmony and brotherhood and helps to make our nation more prosperous keeping pace with the progress in the field of science and technology.

I felicitate the people of Arunachal Pradesh, particularly the children and youth of the state on this happy and joyous occasion.

Jai Hind.

Gen (Retd) J. J. Singh,  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM.