



**Speech
Of
His Excellency
SHRI KUMMANAM RAJASEKHARAN**

**GOVERNOR,
MIZORAM**

On the occasion of

Swachhta Abhiyan Campaign

Organized by Project Pushpak and ICFAI University

At

Rajat Auditorium, Project Pushpak, Thuampui, Aizawl

On

02nd October, 2018

- Brig. Birender Singh, Chief Engineer, Project Pushpak.
- Lt. Gen. Dr. A.K. Misra, Vice Chancellor ICFAI University.
- Distinguished Guest and my dear friends.

Chibai

First of all, I want to congratulate Project Pushpak and ICFAI University, Mizoram for organising a Swachhta Abhiyan campaign here in Aizawl and making me a part of this wonderful initiative towards cleanliness.

Today, on the 2nd of October, we are reminded of our father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. We Indians gained freedom under the leadership of Gandhiji, but his dream of a clean India is still unfulfilled till date. He said "Sanitation is more important than independence", which made cleanliness and sanitation an integral part of the Gandhian way of living. His dream was total sanitation for all.

This campaign was launched officially by the government of India on 145th birthday anniversary of the great person, Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd of October, 2014. The government of India has aimed to make India a clean India by 2nd of October 2019 (means 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi) through this campaign. The campaign is by far the biggest hygiene campaign in which each and every citizen takes part for making our country clean. These missions are to be "inspired by the spirit of nationalism", it will be credited to the citizens of the whole country.

We are well aware that India being a developing country and is plagued with various social issues and I think that cleanliness drive is the best start of eliminating social issues from the society as well as promoting

the growth of country with its citizen's individual growth. Only the success of cleanliness campaign may bring a huge positive change in India. Cleanliness is not the only responsibility of 'cleaning workers', it is the responsibility of we all 125 billion Indians. Cleanliness is most important for physical well-being and a healthy environment. It has bearing on public and personal hygiene. Only the success of the cleanliness mission can bring a big change in India. It is linked to the internal and external growth and development of all the citizens living in India, which is seen in the entirety of its slogan, "Clean, happy and healthy citizens participate in the creation of healthy and developed nation." Like our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said, "The dream of swacchata cannot be achieved even if 100 Mahatma Gandhis or 1,000 Narendra Modis or even all the CMs and governments come together, but if 125 crore Indians come together that dream can be easily fulfilled."

I am proud of the fact that Mizoram has done a great deal in promoting cleanliness in the society. 'Faina Hapta', the cleanliness week in Mizoram has been observed for several decades, even before 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' came into being. This only goes on to show that cleanliness has been a way of life for the people of Mizoram and there are no better people than us to understand the importance of cleanliness.

The recent declaration of Mizoram as Open Defecation Free State shows that we have progressed a lot in sanitation. And with Biata village bagging the Best City award in 'Innovation & Best Practices' – North East Zone category under Swachh Survekshan 2018, we can become a model for other States to emulate.

I am sure that your efforts and the efforts of many others will make this beautiful State of Mizoram one of the cleanest States in the country. On this special day of Gandhi Jayanthi I wish you all success in the “Swachhta Abhiyan” campaign! Let us all build a Clean India, Strong India.

I once again congratulate the organisers who took this great initiative to propagate the ideas and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi thereby motivating the people and inspiring them for National Integration. I thank all of you who invited me to address this august gathering.

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Jai Hind.