

'Centre is giving topmost priority to development of Arunachal Pradesh'

From Our Special
Correspondent

ITANAGAR, FEB 19: The Arunachal Pradesh Governor, General (Retd) JJ Singh, said the state is passing through a historical period with the Central Government giving topmost priority to the development of the state. The vision of the Government is to elevate Arunachal Pradesh as one of the most developed states of the Union of India in a short period, he added.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the Arunachal Statehood Day here today, the Governor has, however, said the prosperity of the state cannot be achieved without peace and called upon all the young people who took to the path of extremism to come back to the mainstream.

With the Constitution providing special powers to the Governor of Arunachal under Article 371 H insofar as the law and order problem is concerned, the Governor said that he will bring all the agencies, like the Army, Assam Rifles,



Arunachal Pradesh Governor, General (Retd) JJ Singh

CRPF, other paramilitary forces and the state police together to tackle the problem in the state, especially in Tirap and Changlang.

Dwelling upon problems of development, Gen Singh said the major thrust now will be on infrastructure development. The State will soon have a four line highway, good roads for 500 villages on the border areas, a railway line

from Harumoti and a green airport in the capital city. The Governor said that he will specially monitor the projects so that accountability is maintained.

Considering the huge potential of tourism in the state, he said a recommendation will be made to the Central Government to streamline the Restricted Area Permit for the foreigners and simplify the innerline permit

for domestic travellers. "Our state can offer tourists diverse and unparalleled experiences with regard to mountaineering, trekking, river rafting and so on. The marvellous natural beauty, varied flora and fauna and tourism potential of the state have been untapped so far. We will endeavour to encourage tourism in a big way by allowing the private sector also to explore this dimension and help in creating the required infrastructure," he added.

The Governor has also laid stress on the health sector and said if good hospitals are set up in all the 16 district headquarters that will to a large extent mitigate the suffering of the people from rural and farflung areas.

He also promised to develop educational facilities in the state, especially vocational and higher education. The Governor to a question said the mega hydel power projects planned in the State have studied all aspects of their effect on human habitation and ecology of the state and as such the ill effects will be very minimal.