

Guv for affordable higher education

By staff Reporter

ITANAGAR, Feb 17: Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh today advocated an affordable and quality higher educational system to ensure its accessibility to every qualified and motivated student.

Addressing the two-day 9th conference of higher and technical education (H&TE) at Banquet Hall here today, he urged the academia, educationists and intellectuals to promote opportunities to expand the horizon of education. He said education is the driving force for improving the nation's prosperity and the social and economic wellbeing of its people.

Though the H&TE has recorded higher growth, higher education does not guarantee jobs. This calls for finding better chances for social and self development, he added.

Pointing out that Indians are adored across the world for their higher IQ, he asked for a focused approach in other areas, like handicrafts, weaving or carpen-



try.

Appreciating the awardees for their dedicated and commendable services that produced many technocrats, bureaucrats and academicians, he called it a good gesture of the state government to have accorded them due recognition.

Singh asked the parents to educate their children to give them the freedom to opt for their careers. "Do not force them to do what they don't want to," he cautioned.

H&TE director Dr Joram Begi said the conference sought to provide a common platform to the academicians, policy makers and stakeholders to discuss and

chalk out strategies to develop the state's education sector as both expansion and consolidation is the need of the hour.

Stressing on the need for more institutions, degree and polytechnic colleges and a National Information Technology unit in each district, he asked for revised and updated curriculum in every educational institution with introduction of job-oriented courses while improving the infrastructure of the existing educational institutions.

This year's conference is significant as the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science

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From P.I... and Technology (NERIST) have both completed 25 years. Dr Begi asked all the participants to share their ideas and views on developing strategies for the education system.

RGU vice chancellor Prof KC Belliappa said the state's educational system has become a worthy model for other states to emulate.

He highlighted the achievements of the RGU and informed that M Phil course will be introduced in all subjects except those without supervisors from the coming session. He further informed that action will be initiated to have individual supervi-

sors instead of co-supervisors. Instead of re-checking the answer scripts, re-evaluation will be introduced for the deserving candidates, he added.

Education Minister Tatar Kipa revealed that two more degree colleges in Nyapin in Kurung Kumey and Seppa in East Kameng district will be opened in the current financial year, adding that the government has also enhanced stipend and book grant to the indigent students.

Education commissioner Hage Khoda termed the 11th five year plan a plan of education, and urged the stakeholders to

avail of the funds and resources to address the infrastructural gap in the state.

Dera Natung Government College head of Commerce department Sashi Kant Sharma and Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat's head of Mathematics department DVL Narasimha Rao received the College Teacher's Award for 2008.

Rajani Yadav from Indira Gandhi Government College, Tezu, and Minu Sarkar and Bimla Jaishy from JNC, Pasighat received the Governor's Award as the university toppers for 2008.

Manosh Kumar from Tawang GHSS got the best

programme officer award, Wancha Rajkumar Government College got the best unit award and DNGC's Junoney Nabam received the best volunteer in the NCC state award category. DNGC's Sumwang Lowang and Taji Jami were given the NCC's best cadet awards.

The governor released two books, *No War: Media and Indo-Pak Diplomacy* by Tezu IGGC principal Sangja Khandu, and *Money, Income and Rational Expectations in Indian Economies* by Dr RK Mandal.

Kipa released the basic information booklet on higher education, while the NSS newsletter was released by Prof Belliappa.