ITANAGAR, Feb 24: “On the festive fortnight of Shapwang Yaung Manawpoi, Tamladu, Oriah, the Statehood Day, Maha Shivratri and our own Nyokum festival, we can take pride in having the first toy train in the entire Northeast,” said Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh. “This project is a symbolic reflection of the future that will connect our capital city both by air and rail. It is like a dream come true.”

Dedicating the state’s first toy train to the people of the state at Nyokum Lapang ground here today, Singh thanked the Central Nyokum Committee (CNC) led by former MP Nabum Rebia and CNC secretary Vijay Sonam, saluting their untiring cooperation towards accomplishing the mission, reports PRO to Governor.

The governor also switched on the high-mast lighting system installed in the festival ground.

The role played by the Indian Army, the state PWD, Contd. P.3
Toy train arrives...

From P.I... the district administration and members of the Nyishi community isindeed very praiseworthy, he said. He especially thanked the officers, JCOs and soldiers of the 105 Engr Regiment and to the HQ 4 Corps at Tezpur.

Lt Gen KT Parnaik of the GOC 4 Corps and Lt Balu of the 15 Engineers were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Exhorting ‘Team Arunachal’ to contribute to the state’s rise through hard work and dedication, Singh, a strong environment campaigner, did not forget his concern over plastic.

“I hope you have not forgotten my appeal of last Nyokum festival – ‘a plastic free Arunachal’. Children, it is your future and we would like to keep Arunachal clean and pollution free,” he said.

Lt Gen Parnaik, who was the guest of honour, was profuse in his praise for Singh. “Gen Singh, who was known as a soldier’s general has now become the people’s general with his proactive initiatives towards the welfare of the local population of the state,” he said.

The GOC assured that the Army would continue making goodwill gestures throughout Arunachal.

Rebia in his turn expressed gratitude to the first couple of the state and the Army for the toy train, adding that the Nyishi community would never forget their contribution to the Nyokum Lapang ground. He assured that the asset would be looked after with utmost care.

Earlier, the governor was accorded a warm traditional reception by Rikam Pada dance troupes. He also hoisted the Nyokum flag to signal the beginning of the festivity. Exotic Nyishi dishes and delicacies along with local brew were served.

Later, along with the guests and children, the governor took a ride on the toy train. As a goodwill gesture, he paid for the tickets for all those who took the first ride with him, the report adds.