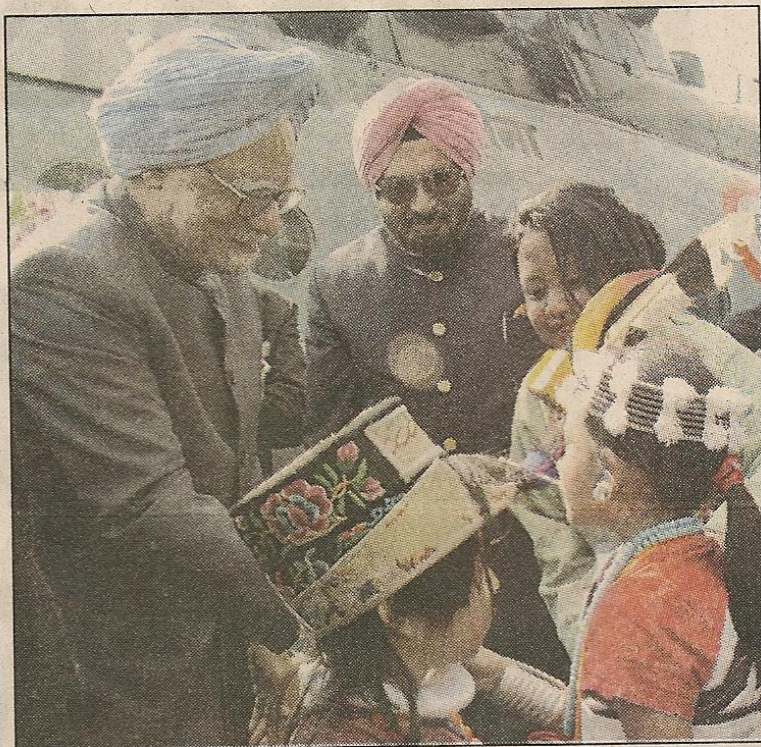


Tirap & C'lang need adequate force: Guv



A traditional welcome to PM during his 2008 visit to Itanagar

ITANAGAR, Feb 04: Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh has apprised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of the need for adequate force deployment in Tirap and Changlang districts and for augmenting Army presence along the state's border, reports PRO to governor.

Singh, who called on the PM on February 1 last, also reiterated the need to raise Arunachal Scout battalions "and not dilute the concept to raising of a company worth of troops."

Tirap and Changlang districts being insurgency infested are de-

clared disturbed under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. A few days after assuming charge, the governor had chosen Tirap HQ Khonsa for his first official visit to gain first-hand information on the prevailing situation. He has been frequently visiting both the districts.

Singh apprised the PM of the progress of works under the package announced by the latter during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh in January 2008.

The package envisages the construction of the Trans-

Arunachal Highway, two lane connectivity to all district headquarters, four-lane connectivity from Guwahati to Itanagar; implementing the border village illumination programme; road connectivity to 513 villages under the PMGSY; a green-field airport at Itanagar; establishing rail connectivity for Itanagar, power projects, and making 9 old airstrips operational.

In order to remove bottlenecks in the state's road communication sector, especially in its remote eastern part, the governor requested the PM for a black-top road link from Miao to Vijaynagar under the PMGSY, and for special allocation of funds for the same.

He informed that Vijaynagar, the eastern most area of Changlang district, jutting into Myanmar, as of now remains air maintained for its subsistence. "This road link, when it comes up, will also make the journey of Namdapha reserve forest complete, giving impetus to eco-tourism," he said.

Further, he briefed Dr Singh on the need to operationalize the border trade centre (land custom station) at Nampong to develop trade links with Myanmar.

The governor assured the PM of the state government's commitment to ensure Arunachal's development, quoting the PM, who had during his visit to Itanagar on 31 January 2008 had said, "Arunachal will rise from the East as a new star and become one of the best regions of our country," the report adds.