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Governor J.J. Singh laid the foundation stone for a war memorial

Itanagar, Dec. 9: Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd.) J.J. Singh laid the foundation stone for a war memorial to honor the martyrs of the Anglo-Abor wars at Rebing Camp, 70 km from Pasighat in East Siang district on 9th December 2011. Along with State Minister for Industry, Textile and Handicrafts Tapang Talo, the Governor laid wreath at the proposed site, which is near the British Inspection Bungalow that was damaged in the 11th June 2000 flash flood, **reports PRO to Governor.**

Later participating in the centenary celebration of Poju Mimak, the 4th and last Anglo-Abor war of 1911-12 at Dengki, near Kebang village, 75 km from Pasighat, the Governor said that the war memorial, for which he laid the foundation, will be the symbol of the martyrs, their commitment and sacrifice of those who live in hearts of the people forever.

Speaking from the very place which was the headquarters of the Abor Expedition forces, the Governor said that the war memorial will instill a sense of national pride not only amongst members of the community and also in the youth and help them develop pride and respect for the martyrs. Through such monuments, we also pay homage to the moral courage, fortitude and resilience of the people of the area who overcame the intense damage suffered during the 4th Anglo-Adi war to become one of the most progressive regions of our State today, he added.

The Governor, who recently participated in the inaugural function of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur War Memorial that commemorates the famous 1710 battle of Chapparchiri, at Chapparchiri, Mohali in Punjab appreciated the Poju Mimak Centenary Celebration Committee for taking initiative in celebrating the historic occasion. He expressed his optimism that the important occasion, which aims at honouring the past to inspire the future, will definitely facilitate the future generations and visitors to the State in knowing the valour, courage and bravery of the great sons of the soil.

The Governor lauded the Chief Minister Nabam Tuki and local MLA and Minister Industries Tapang Talo for their partaking in the centenary celebration and also in the development of the area.

The Governor, who was very impressed by the huge orange orchards in the area and the scenic beauty of the Siang basin, said that the river basin is the paradise for tourism. The Siang basin has huge potential for tourism, especially for adventure and eco tourism. Events like this provide a window or exposure to the potentials of the region for the world to see. River Siang not only has hydro power potential but it could be transformed into an ideal spot for adventure sports. According to world class rafters, it is one of the best white water rafting in the world. The State government is contemplating to develop tourism in this part of the State in the right perspective so that it would become a major hub for tourism activities.

The Governor never missing an occasion to speak for conservation of the gifted flora and fauna of the State said that Arunachal Pradesh is a gifted land with rich biodiversity. One of the global biodiversity hotspots, it is home to a fascinating array of wildlife. New species of flora and fauna are still being discovered every now and then in this pristine ecosystem, which offers a wide range of tangible as well as intangible benefits. He urged upon one and all to ensure that pristine environment is maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, local MLA and Minister Tapang Talo expressed his gratitude to the Governor for participating in the celebration. Taking the opportunity, the minister highlighted on the State Government's initiative in development of tourism sector and road communication in the area.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Kanki Darang, ADC, member of the celebration committee said that the centenary celebration is being organized to commemorate and pay homage to the forefathers who had made their supreme sacrifice not only during Poju Mimak 1911 but also in other three Anglo-Abor wars. He added that it is felt the sacrifices made by forefathers are no less important than the sacrifice made by others during the Indian Freedom struggle. Darang further said that the other aim of the celebration is to rekindle a sense of patriotism among the younger generation of Arunachal Pradesh as well as to promote tourism in the Siang valley.

Poju Mimak Centenary Celebration Committee Chairman Er. Taduram Darang gave insight of the Anglo-Abor wars and its consequences.

Highlights of the celebration were the demonstration of discharge of stone chutes as practiced during the war by the warriors, photo exhibition of the Anglo-Abor war, exhibitions of ornaments of the community, Tapu or the War dance and mega dance on the theme song of the centenary celebration.

Earlier, the Governor and his entourage including Secretary to Governor Ankur Garg along with East Siang Deputy Commissioner Talem Tapok and Superintendent of Police Pushendra Kumar visited Goying Liidung, a huge monolith stone at Radha, place where the first Anglo-Abor war took place in 1858. It is said that on 26th March 1858, the stone was fired at by British forces led by Captain Lowther thinking that Adi warriors of Kebang village were hiding in the thick bushes. One can see the marks of shots fired at on the rock. The Governor also saw the giant jack fruit tree, near spot where the British troops rested. It is said that the personnel hung their rifles to the branches of small jack fruit tree, which is today a huge tree, **adds the report.**

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO