

**PRESS RELEASE NO- 379**

**Governor Inaugurates Seminar on Development and Security**

**Itanagar, April 16:** Rapid development will be there where there is peace and security and Arunachal Pradesh has made tremendous advancement in almost all sectors. We have come a long way and today stand at par with many developed States of our country. In fact, for 2009-10 the growth rate of the State was more than 22% which was the highest for any State of the country, **reports PRO to Governor**

In per capita income terms also, we have overtaken the national average and our income today, per capita, is about 10% higher than the national average. I see a bright future for Arunachal Pradesh as security has been well address by the nation.

This was stated by Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh, while inaugurating a two-day national seminar on development and security organized by Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh here today. Appreciating Vivekananda International Foundation Trust and Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture Arunachal Pradesh chapter for organizing the seminar in the State and on the selection of the subjects, Governor said, with long international borders, Arunachal Pradesh is strategically located.

Therefore interaction like this taking place here will help in its development. Referring to security, Gen Singh said, the people of Arunachal Pradesh are very hardworking, fiercely patriotic and are very proud of their cultural heritage. The Arunachalee are very agitated at the claim of its land by others, while referring to a slogan by students and media saying, 'Doodh magoge to Kheer dengge, Arunachal magoge to chirrh (Tear up).' To maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, we have raised our first Arunachal Scouts Battalion, which will not only be eyes and ears but also act as force multipliers. In his inaugural address, Gen Singh dwelt in length on development activities in the State.

He pictured the State during its inception when there were two schools and few kilometers of road to coming up of four lane road, with the five billion dollar development package, which was not just promised but which has started on ground, Arunachal Pradesh will be most developed State in India in five to ten years., airports and railway tracks. Touching on Prime Minister's economic package, he said Communication and roads, which is included in the projects, will lead to better education and health care. With opening of Stillwell road, which he has been strong advocating, Governor said, it will provide huge opportunities for trade and commerce. As Supreme Court has ban on forest extraction here, getting forest produce from neighboring country will help in

reviving our wood based industries and also provide employment to large numbers of people. But, he cautioned, as Governor of the State, I have to ensure that development is not forced on the people and they become mute spectators. It should in a pace, which they can absorb. I want to see that Arunachalee's are the biggest beneficiaries of the development process, he added. Gen Singh, while acknowledging the immense contributions of them Vivekananda Kendra's in the State recalled his close association with organization and VKV Tafragaon in early seventies, when he was a battalion commander in Lohit area. In his keynote address, Chairman of Vivekananda International Foundation, Admiral KK Nayyar, former Vice Chief of Naval Staff said development means our lives should be better then yesterday.

Development is due to effort of human being and we have to develop our human resources. We should address two factors for it. First it should be inclusive and equity and second corruption. Stating that increase in life expectancy as indicator of development, he said it is the summarization of development process. Sharing his ideas on security, former Vice Chief of Naval Staff said, problem of security is more from internal than external. With better education and better information, we can erase internal problems and communal tension and secure our way of life and our culture. He also cautioned against proselytization. Referring stapled visa, claims on Arunachal Pradesh by China, Admiral Nayyar said, we should take note of it, but should not fear. Our soldier may not have laptops but they have the will to give their life in the defense the motherland. On the huge hydropower potential of Arunachal Pradesh, Chairman of Vivekananda International Foundation said, size of rehabilitation is not big and therefore central government should facilitate in the speedy implementation. Former vice Chief of Naval Staff concluded his speech by stating, 'for many years people of Arunachal Pradesh have lived up to our expectation and now it is the time rest of the country rise to the expectation of these people.' Vice President of all India Vivekananda Kendras A Balakrishnan said, national security is the responsible of every citizen and not just armed forces or the police.

But it will be taken care if we have right kind of education, he pointed. Therefore, Vivekananda Kendras are doing its best in its humble ways to provide right type of education. It aims to instill good values in every child and youth including patriotism, character building, work ethics, pride in ones job and preservation and protection of environment. We are building such individuals who will be useful and will contribute towards development and security of the nation, Balakrishnan added. Dwelling on background of Vivekananda Kendras in Arunachal Pradesh, Vice President of all India Vivekananda Kendras informed that organization which set its foot in the State in 1974 started providing formal education to children in 1977 with starting of seven residential schools in five districts. Today, it has expanded to thirty-three schools spread al over the State from Tirap to Tawang. Along with it, through Arun Jyoti, it is focusing on rural development, women, youth, health & hygiene, non formal education and culture by injecting values in the mind of the people.

In his welcome address, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh Chapter State Coordinator, Dr. Tejum Padu gave an overview of the seminar. Pointing at the recent controversies like stapled visa, claims on Arunachal Pradesh by

China and inserting of Arunachal Pradesh in Google maps of China, Dr. Padu drew on the necessity for such seminar in Arunachal Pradesh. He cautioned against misinterpretation of some of the topics, like mega dam etc. Underlining the importance of the seminar, Guwahati Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture Secretary Sujatha Nayak, who also spoke in the inaugural session said, we are charting the future.

Earlier Governor released two books, Golden Vine of R Hynniewtrep, the Khasi Heritage by Suman Sing Sawian and Heritage of Kamakhya on the Nilachala Hill, both published by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture. State First Lady Anupama Singh, Former Lt Governor of Delhi and former Chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh Vijay Kapoor, Former Secretary to GoI & Chairman TRAI Nripendra Mishra, Former Director Intelligence Bureau & present Director of VIF, former Deputy Chief of Army Staff and Director General of Military Intelligence Lt Gen RK Sawhney, Former Indian Ambassador to France and Germany Ambassador TCA Rangachari were present in the inaugural function along with Padma, Mamang Dai, former MP Khiren Rijju and large numbers of intellectuals, opinion leaders and invitees and functionaries of VIF and VKs.

The topics that will be covered in the two-day seminar are Politico-administrative and territorial evolution of Arunachal Pradesh-Lessons learnt and opportunities for the future, Growth and development of Arunachal Pradesh in National perspective, Socio cultural movements in Arunachal Pradesh, including indigenous faith movements and movements of student and women groups, Arunachal in changing global and regional setting-challenges and opportunities, India's national security concerns with special emphasis on border management and Bio-diversity and environment issues in growth strategy.

**Sd/ Ing Tayeng PO**