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Republic Day Celebrations at State Capital

State Govt. to address the socio-economic development needs - Gen. Singh

NAHARLAGUN, Jan. 26-The 63rd Republic Day was celebrated in the State Capital Itanagar with great enthusiasm on January 26, Thursday at Indira Gandhi Park, Itanagar and the general public and Govt. officers and officials and school children and others joined in the celebrations unhindered by cloudy and a chill weather.

Governor Gen. J.J Singh unfurled the National Tri-Color and inspected the guard of honour presented by marching contingents of Paramilitary and Police and students.

Addressing the people of the state on the occasion, the Governor said that the main focus area of the State Govt. would be on addressing the socio-economic development and gap and in this effort attention would be given to capacity building and employment generation among youth, holistic approach for Agriculture and Horticulture sector, promotion of tourism through new projects in so far unexplored areas, and also promoting rural development through socio-economic model village projects aimed at employment generation and livelihood opportunities. While on the physical infrastructure development, projects are on the right track, he said.

Stating that the State Govt. would continue to give top priority to Education & Health Sectors, Gen. Singh informed that however the focus would shift "from construction of buildings to providing quality healthcare and education by providing sufficient and qualified doctors and teachers"

He expressed hope that Public Private Partnership Policy 2011 recently adopted by the State Government will open up the gates for development of various infrastructure sectors, both physical and social, through much needed infusion of resources and managerial capability of the private sector.

Speaking on the massive package announced by the Central Govt. for Tirap and Changlang districts for recruitment of almost 2,000 youth in the Civil Police from these two districts and for exhaustive strengthening of the police set-up, Gen. Singh said that "This single step will have an exemplary turn-around effect on the insurgency situation there".

He also announced that the state cabinet has approved setting up of Forest Protection Force, which will mainly be deployed along the Assam border.

Exuding his happiness that the PM Package are being earnestly implemented, he said that the new Civil Secretariat building, Itanagar water supply project and the Railway line to the state capital would be functional within this year. He also lauded the progress of the Trans-Arunachal Highway, PMGSY.

The 1,000 capacity Convention Centre at I.G Park, undertaken by UD dept .would address a long felt need for such facility in the State Capital. He also commended the efforts of the UD deptt on the works on the model roads in Itanagar city.

For ensuring coverage of PDS,34 new storage godowns are proposed to opened this year, while e-PDS project will be replicated at 18 locations in the State after its successful launch in Tirap District.

The Govt. would also soon launch a new scheme to provide substantial funds to the Deputy Commissioners this year availability of salt at these locations, the Governor announced.

Stressing on the need for timely completion of ongoing hydro-power projects, Singh said "By the end of the 12th Five year Plan, the State is likely to add almost 13,000 MW of additional hydro-power capacity. Once we achieve this the annual revenue to the State from sale of free power would be of the order of Rs. 3,000 crores annually which is almost as much as our entire Plan size as of now. Such strong resource accrual will open up windows of opportunities to us for financing development of our social sectors like education & health. He assured that genuine concerns raised would be adequately addressed by the State Govt.

Expressing concern over the "Bandh culture" in the state, the Governor said that "Violent & forcible bandhs have no place in a democracy and by no definition can they be considered democratic means of protest. They can never be a replacement for dialogue and negotiations." Govt. would deal with all such anti-social activities with a stern hand, he asserted.

He also mentioned the launching of the process of preparation of Cadastral maps of all administrative headquarters in a phased manner. "Three centres –Aalo, Ziro and Capital Complex have already been brought under the cadastral survey and eleven more centres will be covered during the current financial year." Singh elaborated.

The Governor also listed the steps and initiates taken by the state Govt. for the priority sector. On the education front, Gen.Singh said that Rs.25.00 crores have been implemented for implementing RTE Act and Rs.25.00 crores for setting up of additional schools, class-rooms & teachers quarters and also laid stress on imparting quality teaching to the students.

Further in the higher education, four new model degree colleges & seven new polytechnics will be established in the current financial year. A new Law college at Jote has also been notified including the successful functioning of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Yupia adding such initiatives hold help the students in pursuing quality higher education within the State .

On the health sector, he said that budgetary support was provided for construction of accommodation of doctors in far flung areas including creating additional posts of medical doctors & specialists to cover all District hospitals.

On the promotion of Horticulture & allied sectors, Gen.Singh informed that during 12th Five year Plan, the state Govt. will lay increased stress focus on intensification of cash cops, double cropping, market linkages and cold storage facilities.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary Tabom Bam announced the conferment of State awards including 11 golds medals, 10 silver medals and six commendation certificates on several persons in various field ranging from achievements, bravery to meritorious services in their respective fields.

Other attractions of the celebrations were colorful cultural programmes by school children and cultural troupes, tableaus display by Governments departments including NHPC. In the March Past 31st Bn ITBP and Oju Mission Girls received the first and second prize respectively.

Gen. JJ Singh also gave way proficiency certificates besides cash wards of Rs.5000, Rs.3000 and Rs. 2000 to Sonam Jha of SFS College Aalo, Asha Neneding of Don Bosco College Itanagar and Komin Patir of DNGC College, Itanagar as winners of 1st,2nd,3rd prize respecticely in a state level essay writing competition held among the college and university students on the theme "Communal Harmony Begets nationa Integration".

Sd/ D.Dodum, PRO