

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
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**ARUNACHAL PRADESH GOVERNOR FLAGS OFF A MOUNTAINEERING
EXPEDITION TO MOUNT GORICHEN (6488m)**

Itanagar, Sept. 23: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh General (Retd) J.J. Singh flagged off a mountaineering expedition to Mount Gorichen, one of the highest mountains in eastern Himalayan located in Arunachal Pradesh at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 23rd September 2012. It is a twenty-six day expedition to the summit of Mount Gorichen, which is 6488 meters from sea level, **reports PRO to Governor.**

Flagging off the expedition, the Governor conveyed best wishes to the team on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and expressed confidence in their climbing experience and capability. He advised the team members to maintain team spirit and said individual achievements do not count in mountaineering expeditions. He added that though climbing a peak is an achievement, but to come back safe and sound is a greater achievement.

A mountaineer himself and trained under world renowned mountaineers, Late Tenzing Norgay and Late Nawang Gombu, General Singh advising them to respect the mountains, not to challenge the terrain and weather and not to become over confident.

Recalling Late Norgay's advice to him, who said 'Don't look up to the top while climbing. Look around and enjoy the surroundings. Walk with a natural gait and don't exhaust yourself'. General Singh advised the mountaineers to stick to basic rules of mountaineering during the expedition.

While stating that he will be following the progress of the expedition, like he has done during Everest expeditions of Tapi Mra, Anshu Jamsenpa and Tine Mina, the Governor enquired about the medical arrangements, means of communication and equipment for the team.

In his address, Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) President Col. H.S. Chauhan said that Arunachal Pradesh has huge scope for adventure sports and IMF is keen to be partners in mountaineering activities in the State. He added that such activities are good for the Arunachalee youth, who will be facilitators in the future. IMF President expressed his hope that

the expedition will be a successful one as all the expeditions flagged off by General Singh have always been successful.

Col Chauhan, who has traversed across the State from Tuting to Bumla as an Army officer advised the participants never to underestimate the mountains, nature and the weather and take precautions.

As a token of love and gratitude, IMF President presented a mountaineering memento to the Governor, who has been taking immense interest and has been encouraging mountaineering activities in the State.

Speaking on the occasion Arunachal Mountaineering & Adventure Sports Association (AMASA) President Tsering Wange expressed gratitude to the Governor for his untiring assistance and encouragement in adventure sports and mountaineering activities in the state. AMASA President informed that State Tourism Minister Pema Khandu and Sports Authority of Arunachal Pradesh Chairman Tapak Taku have conveyed their best wishes to the team for a successful expedition.

Secretary to Governor Ankur Garg, Special Secretary (Finance) Swati Sharma, State Sports and Youth affairs Director D K Dinglow, First Everester of the State Tapi Mra and officials of Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh were present on the occasion.

It is the first mountaineering expedition jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Indian Mountaineering Foundation.

Led by Dr. K.Romeo Meetei, the thirteen-member team includes three Everesters Anshu Jamsengpa, Tine Mina and ITBP Inspector Lobsang Sherpa. Jamsengpa and Lobsang Sherpa have reached the summit of Mount Everest Summit twice. Sherpa has twelve successful expeditions under his belt. The team has mountaineers from Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Indo Tibetan Border Police. Five mountaineers from Arunachal Pradesh including KN Damo, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Delhi, who is the Liaison Officer and Field Advisor of the team and Nima Lama are taking part in the expedition. The climbing team has a six-member support team of Sherpas from Darjeeling.

Flagged off today from Itanagar, the team will leave Bomdila on 27th October, then from Jang on 29th October and then to Dushinthang, Mago, Jithang and Merathang and will reach the Base Camp at Chakarsam, which is 5000 meters on 3rd October. On 7th October, it will reach the Camp-1 and on 9th the team will be at Camp-II. It plan to reach the summit on 11th October 2012. The flagging-in ceremony will be on 19th October 2012.

Speaking on the sideline of the flagging off ceremony, Liaison Officer and Field Advisor of the team KN Damo, who is the only climber to climb Mount Gorichen three times and has

five mountaineering expeditions under his belt, informed that Mount Gorichen is one of the technically difficult peaks of the world to climb owing to its terrain, rock face, avalanche and crevasse zones and ice wall. He added that in Arunachal Pradesh and eastern Himalayas, it is second only to Mount Kangto, which has a height of 7050 meters.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng Asst. PRO