

No IPR (PR) 03/2008

Dated, Naharlagun, 22nd March, 2012

Press Release No- 292

**Governor addresses Budget session of A P Legislative Assembly,
Highlights government's development initiatives**

Naharlagun, Mar 22: Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd) J.J. Singh has emphasized on the need for a multi-pronged strategy to improve the literacy rate of the state.

Addressing the eighth session of Fifth Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh, the 5(five) day long budget session at State Legislative Assembly beginning here today (March 22, 2012), the Governor spoke about new commitments and renewed efforts to secure the goals that set by the new government, national recognition of State's impressive GDP growth rate in 2009-10, its praise-worthy utilization of plan resources, Arunachal Scouts, implementation of flagship programmes and achievement in sports arenas. He also highlighted on health and education sector as top priority of the government, adding that the government stressed on providing quality healthcare and education through sufficient and qualified man powers.

The Governor said while the physical infrastructure development projects are on track, there is a significant gap in the present levels of socio-economic infrastructure, adding that to address this gap, the Govt. would lay focused attention on capacity building and employment generation amongst youth. A holistic approach based on a complete paradigm shift would be developed for agriculture and horticulture sector to enable maximum returns for the actual cultivators. High priority would be given to sports sector to tap the potentials of the youth, he added.

Singh said that tourism would be promoted as an engine of growth through new projects in hitherto unexplored areas and by inviting private sector investment, while rural development would be promoted through integrated socio-economic model village projects which exploit the natural talents of village communities and provide them employment at their doorsteps.

Dwelling upon the law and order of the state, the Governor condemned the frequent bandh calls by various organizations in the capital complex in strong words, adding that not only were several man-days lost but also led to substantial damage to government and private property. He informed that the first Battalion of Arunachal Scouts has been successfully raised and the second battalion has been sanctioned recently which will have a substantial multiplier effect on the strike and defence capability of the regular army units, besides providing employment opportunities to many young boys of the state. A massive security package of Rs. 138.00 crores has been announced by the Central Govt. for Tirap and Changlang districts which not only provides for exhaustive strengthening of the existing police set-up but also for recruitment of 1,948 youth in the

Civil Police from these two districts. He said that for effective management of border, several steps have been taken to sensitize the District Administration and District Police, while additional deployment of border guarding forces along the International Border to check cross-border movement of insurgents is also likely.

Highlighting on the developmental projects, he informed that the progress of most of the projects under PM package has been satisfactory, adding that 3 important projects, namely the railway line to Naharlagun, Itanagar water supply project and the new civil secretariat are likely to be completed within this year.

The Governor stated that the Govt. has recently adopted the Public Private Partnership Policy 2011 to open up the gates for development of various infrastructure sectors in the state through much-needed infusion of resources and managerial capability of the private sector, in tandem with the overall vision of the State Government. Efforts are on to establish PPP cells in each department and several new model projects in fields such as education, tourism, hydro-power, agriculture, horticulture and urban development will be taken up in the coming year under the PPP mode. A new compilation of various areas of potential investment in the State – aptly titled *Venture Arunachal* has been prepared and launched recently by the Planning Department. To exploit the natural advantage in tourism sector, a master plan for tourism infrastructure development has been prepared, he further added.

He hoped that with the coming up of the new 1,000 capacity convention centre at IG Park under the Urban Development Department, the long felt need of such a facility in state capital will be addressed. Exuding government's commitment to make available the essential commodities to the people at reasonable rates through a network of 1591 Fair price shops, 46 petrol outlets, 34 kerosene oil outlets and 23 gas outlets, the Governor informed the extent and coverage of Public Distribution System is proposed to be strengthened substantially during this year by opening thirty four new storage godowns at various locations under different schemes of the Central and State Government. Three new FCI depots at Aalo, Yingkiong and Anjaw are also likely to be opened soon and the e-PDS project will be replicated at eighteen locations in the State after its successful roll-out in Tirap District. Singh said that several new initiatives have been taken to promote tea cultivation in the State from this year onwards under its '*Sharing a Cup of Tea Mission*'.

The Governor said that continuing with the policy of decentralization and to bring governance closer to the *aam aadmi*, a new district of Longding has been created out of the existing Tirap district. He further informed that the State Govt. has also decided to construct state-of-the-art Deputy Commissioner Offices in each district in the form of Mini-Secretariats in a phased manner where all Heads of departments will be accommodated in the same building. Under the RGGVY scheme, the Dept of Power has so far provided connections to 1037 of the 2129 un-electrified villages of the State; besides free service connection has been provided to 19,586 BPL households in the State.

Stating that Panchayati Raj institutions are the backbone of our democratic set-up, Singh informed that an amount of Rs. 10.00 crores has been provided under SPA last year for construction of Gram Panchayat Cultural Activity Grounds in 1779 Panchayats, while another Rs. 10.00 crores has been provided under SPA for construction of Zila Parishad buildings in ten districts. Construction of 161 Intermediate Panchayat Resource Centers is also under implementation, he added. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 502 habitations have so far been connected by constructing more than 3,000 kms of roads, he informed, adding the department has set a target of constructing 1500 km of rural roads so as to provide connectivity to 100 villages of population less than 250 each in the 12th Five Year Plan.

On education front, the Governor informed that four new model degree colleges and seven new polytechnics will be established in the state in the current financial year; besides a new Law college at Jote has also been notified. On the occasion, he also spoke on the process of preparation of Cadastral maps of all administrative Hqs in a phased manner, launching of two flagship schemes of the State Govt. – the CM Talent Award scheme and the CM Disability Pension Scheme in all districts, besides up gradations of museums, preservation and promotion of historical sites in the state.

House pays obituary to former Minister late Kabang Borang:

Speaker Wanglin Lowangdong led the house in paying obituary to former Minister late Kabang Borang, who expired yesterday at Chennai. Reading out the obituary reference, the Speaker conveyed his deep condolences to the family of the departed leader.

Paying his homage to the former Minister, Chief Minister Nabam Tuki called him a seasoned politician who worked for the cause of the society. MLA Laeta Umbrey also spoke on the contribution of the late leader towards promotion and preservation of rich cultural heritage of the state and in particular the Adi society.

MLA Tako Dabi, Planning, Finance & PWD Minister Chowna Mein, Education Minister Bosiram Siram, Parliamentary Secretary J K Panging also participated and recalled their association with late Borang, besides highlighting his contribution to the state and society at large.

The house also observed a two minute silence as a mark of respect to the former Minister before leaving for helipad to receive the mortal remains of the departed leader which was brought from Apollo Hospital, Chennai.

Sd/- Purabi Taikam, PRO