

PRESS RELERSE NO- 1356

**Your honor will be given highest priority- Governor
State level Ex-Servicemen Rally at Itanagar
Govt. to redress their demands for re-employment & welfare measures**

Itanagar, Dec. 4: Our armed forces are the nation's pride, a symbol of our values of sacrifice, valour and the spirit of national integration and you, our Ex Servicemen are a very committed, trustworthy, capable and valuable National resource. Your honour will be given highest priority, said Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh while addressing the first ever State level rally of Ex-Servicemen at Itanagar today, **reports PRO to Governor.**

A third generation soldier himself, Gen Singh pointed soldiers have earned the respect of the society as defenders of the Nation and its populace. A warrior is looked upon as the last bastion of hope. The armed forces have successfully achieved all their objectives through three pillars of Soldiering. These are: secularism, an apolitical outlook and professionalism. These are the values which we hold very dear to us. The Olive Green is a family and the bonds of regimentation, camaraderie and its value system still binds us as Veterans. Once a soldier, Always a Soldier; hence our role and contribution towards civic society must continue, he added.

Governor pointed, the spirit of Patriotism historically runs very deep in veins of all Arunachalees and now their participation in the mainstream of National Defence is growing. With the raising of Ist Battalion Arunachal Scouts, a new chapter has been added which will go a long way in instilling pride in the youth, in harnessing their energy and capability for protecting their motherland. The greater deployment of Army in Arunachal as also more youth joining Defence Forces, awareness of this unique way of life will increase and will benefit the society and development of the State.

Governor urged upon the Ex-Servicemen for their contributions toward the development of the State. Pledging to taken up the matters of the Ex-servicemen, Gen Singh assured take up on priority.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of the Ex Servicemen to the State Government for organizing the rally, Governor said, it is a joint rally of defence and State Government. We will meet every year, he declared.

As a Goodwill gesture, Gen Singh donated a LCD TV set for the Sainik Aaram Ghar Addressing the Ex-Servicemen, Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu said, we all are always proud of you. With valour and dedication, you have done your uniform duty in all frontiers but now you have important role to play in the society for security and welfare of every individual. As a trained person and with experiences, your expertise in self

defence, fire fighting, flood, accidents will be of immense importance. Being in Army helps us to be disciple, respect for every religion and community. Be a role model and a good example, he added.

Referring to job reservation, Chief Minister pointed, with coming up of hydropower projects, the service of Ex-Servicemen will be required and State Government will recommend them to the corporations.

Appealing for their cooperation in development of the State, Khandu said, Government is with you and will try its best to address your problems. Assuring to post a director for Raj Sainik Board, he said, Aaram Ghar projects will be taken up on priority.

Referring to the raising of Arunachal Scouts, Chief Minister expressed his gratitude Prime Minister, Defence Minister and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. He added, we had asked for four battalions but at present we got sanction for one.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chief Secretary Tabom Bam expressed his hope that Ex Servicemen rally will be annual feature in the coming years. He urged the former personnel to remain active and take constructive role in community development. Director Relief, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management TT Gamdik said as icon of patriotism, ex-servicemen are the role model.

Representing Kendriya Sainik Board, Col Govind Singh, Director, Self Employment highlighted on the programmes and schemes for the Ex Servicemen. Col Singh gave comprehensive details on welfare and rehabilitation programme, while throwing lights on monetary grants, disabled, daughter marriage, higher professional scholars and care for widows, ex-servicemen children and also of themselves.

President of the Ex-Servicemen of Arunachal Pradesh Subdar Major Lobsang Monpa expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Governor for his initiative in organizing the event. Stating 'Fauzi hi fauzi ko samaj saktey hai' Monpa requested Governor for his personal attention in establishment of Rajya Sainik Board, recruitment office in the State, Sainik School and early construction of the earmarked Sainik Aaram Ghar at Khonsa, Tawang and Itanagar. His Vice President Hony Captain Age Wangsu made a emotional pleading for reservation of seats in Vivekananda Kendriya Vidhyalayas, Ramakrishna Mission schools for children of Ex Servicemen, dry rations and military school. Citing problems of Ex-servicemen in disturbed areas, Wangsu called for the re-employment and also earmarking of Ex-Servicemen colonies for their security. He went on appealing for improvement of All India Radio and Doordarshan service in Tirap and Changlang.

Governor and the Chief Secretary presented mementoes and gifts to all the Ex-servicemen and war widows on the occasion. President of the Ex-Servicemen of Arunachal Pradesh Subdar Major Lobsang Monpa presented a memento to the Governor on behalf of his associates.

Making it a festive occasion, led by Band Major, CHM Nasir Ahmed, the 4 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry presented a impressive band display, which was followed by dog show by 19 Army Dog Unit. Adding colours to the festivity, 21 Battalion of Punjab Regiment presented a scintillating 'Bhangra,' while personnel from

Gorkha Rifles impressed all with its trademarked 'Khukri' dance. Arms display by Hq 4 Corp, Tezpur was a major attraction of the rally.

Keeping alive, one of the important features of practices among the forces, a 'Bara Khana' was organized on the occasion, which was joined by the honoured guests, ex-servicemen, personnel and organizers.

In the sideline of the rally, Governor met the former combatants and recalled their experiences together in the frontlines. Thanking Gen Singh for his initiatives for them, an Ex Servicemen pointed, it's a dream come true, **adds the report.**

Sd/ D.Dodum,PRO