

Cross-border ties to boost Arunachal economy: Singh

From Arif Siddiqui
NAMPONG, Mar. 24: "The cross-border relation (with Myanmar) will attribute a new chapter to the economic growth of Arunachal Pradesh in particular and India in general," Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) J J Singh today said while stressing on the state's tourism sector.

The governor, who, accompanied by his wife, Speaker Setong Sena and border trade director Tokon Pertin landed here on a bright sunny day after a week of stormy days, said that the Stilwell Road - now NH 153 - will be of international standard and that he has already taken up the issue with the central authorities.

"The top priority in my personal agenda is to make the historic Stilwell road of international standard. After the power sector, tourism has massive scope and feasibility in Arunachal Pradesh. The concentration to develop this sector should be mandatory," he said.

He advised the district administration to initiate awareness programmes among the villagers to encourage orchid cultivation. The rare and unique varieties of orchids that bloom in



Tri-colours, smiles greet state's 1st couple. AFND

abundance in this part of the state could be a potential sector for the poor people of the state. The demand for orchid is very high in national and international markets. Therefore, the villagers must be encouraged to opt for orchid cultivation, he added.

"The teacher fraternity is the most essential segment

in the movement of building the future of the nation," he said, and complimented them for contributing in the nation building.

Talking to a Myanmar official at the border, the governor said that the Indo-Myanmar affinity exists since many decades. He extended his thanks to all the Myanmar officials who

warmly welcomed him. The entourage later returned to the state capital via Jairampur.

His visit is being seen as a major boost to materialize the 'Look East' policy (LEP) which significantly moved ahead after the visit of MoS Commerce Jairam Ramesh on November 24 last year to inaugurate the border trade center (BTC) here.

The LEP symbolizes a new dawn of the district, the state and the nation. One of the important parts of the policy being to connect the ASEAN countries through a trans-Asia highway, it will not only help the North East region to emerge as a transit midpoint for ASEAN countries and evolve into a commercial nucleus, the process is also certain to help the state's economy surge ahead.

Obviously, the North East has immense prospects in terms of natural resources that can not only eradicate the poverty of the region but can also assist significantly the augmentation of the national economy. Till recently, the 'Look East' policy was an indistinct theory, but now the present government has endeavored to transmute the utopian plan into reality.

The opening of border trade and commerce among the Asian nations *Contd. P.3*

Cross-border ties...



Contd. P.1... through the Stillwell road shall encourage the exchange of cultural heritage and ethnic arts that will boost the tourism sector which has the capability to transform the economy of the region in particular and the nation in general. The visit of the governor to this area at this time is a major enhance-

ment to expectations in this regard.

While - Jairampur, Nampong and Pangsau Pass together possess significant historical places that impel the flow of tourists from across the globe, countless have to curtail their initiatives due to the fact that this tourist circuit doesn't gratify their needs

in terms of transportation and accommodation.

The governor, who was greeted at the Assam Rifles helipad here by the speaker, zilla parishad chairperson Izmir Tikhak, Changlang deputy commissioner and superintendent of police, Jairampur and Miao ADCs and Assam Rifles personnel,

interacted with people from various walks of life during his brief stopover.

Zilla chairperson Izmir Tikhak, on behalf of the people of Nampong submitted a two-point memorandum to the governor, demanding a tourist lodge at Nampong and a helipad and cafeteria at Pangsau Pass/Nampong.