

Use PPP to develop tourism: Governor

MECHUKA, May 15: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh today urged the people to take the responsibility of developing the state's tourism infrastructure under public-private partnership (PPP).

The governor, who was on a daylong tour here in West Siang district, underscored the importance of people's participation in infrastructure care and in revenue generation activities, saying such participation would have a positive impact on the state's huge tourism potential, reports PRO to Governor.

He interacted with the GBs (in pic) and villagers in this picturesque township along the Sino-India border here, and appreciated their giving the indigenous touch to tourism related facilities. He also asked the horticulture department officials to seek ways to expand the department's activities, especially in the area of medicinal plants, to take advantage of the area's conducive environment.

Besides meeting the *jawans* stationed here, Singh, who was accompanied by first lady Anupama Singh, visited the Gompas and Gurudawaras. The



Gompa here is one of the oldest and a place of tourist interest. According to oral history, this Gompa is a contemporary of the Tawang Monastery.

Pem Shibu here is a holy place where, according to local legends, famous Buddhist monk Guru Padmasambhava had meditated along with two of his disciples, while the Sikhs believe that Guru Nanak Devji had meditated there with his two disciples leaving the sitting impression on rocks.

There are caves where the believers go to worship either to get cured from a disease or being blessed with a child. Legend has it that no devoted one has ever been deprived of result.

Yargap-Chu, a tributary of mighty Siang, flows quietly along the hilly town, inhabited by over 4,000 local denizens, mostly farmers. Small rivulets criss-cross the valley adding beauty to it.

October is considered the best time for a sojourn in Mechuka, but December to February for those who want to enjoy the snow-clad mountains and nature.

Later, prior to his return to Itanagar, Singh held a meeting with senior officials at district headquarters Aalo and urged upon them to play proactive roles in the financial empowerment of the people, especially the women, the report adds.