

Warning bells for underground outfits

Governor sets right priorities

ITANAGAR, Feb 19: Sending a clear message to the underground outfits active in Arunachal Pradesh that they would not be allowed to disturb peace in the state, Governor Gen (Retd.) J J Singh today categorically said that all sorts of unlawful activities would be dealt sternly for ensuring safety and security to the people.

Addressing his maiden press conference at Rajbhan here this evening the former Chief of Army Staff said that he would initiate necessary measures to see that peace prevailed in the state.

"My visit to insurgency-affected Tirap district immediately after taking charge is

a clear message to the law breakers that they would not be allowed any more to disturb peace in the state," he said and added that he would streamline the performances of all security agencies responsible for maintaining law and order in order to contain insurgent activities in the state.

The Constitution of India allows special power to the governor under Article 371 (H) to look after law and order.

Pointing out that violence had direct affect on industrial growth besides retarding development of agriculture and higher education, the governor appealed to the misguided youths to shun

violence and join the mainstream.

Replying to a query on rehabilitation of surrendered underground activists, the governor disclosed that he would discuss the matter with union Ministry of Home Affairs and national security advisor for evolving a pragmatic rehabilitation policy and package for the state.

Singh while referring to various projects sanctioned by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his visit said that his task would be to guide the state government in implementing all those projects and to monitor them at regular intervals.

He further informed that he

would approach the Defence Ministry to execute some 'sadbhavana projects' in border villages in line with Jammu and Kashmir for development of border areas and to forge better relationship between forces and common people.

"Under such projects model villages would be created with all facilities," he said adding, such projects would supplement state government's effort to develop border areas of the state.

Stating that he would advise the state government to encourage public private partnership (PPP) in industrial sector, he stressed on the need to develop tourism

as a booming industry in the state. He said that he would initiate necessary measures along with the state government in streamlining restrictions in entry of tourists to the state.

General Singh further suggested for organic farming in cultivation of cash crops, floriculture and medicinal plants. He also stressed on encouraging sports by creating infrastructure for producing world class sportsmen from the state.

"We should concentrate initially on sports such as archery, shooting, football and gymnastic, where every Arunachalee could excel", he added. (UNI)