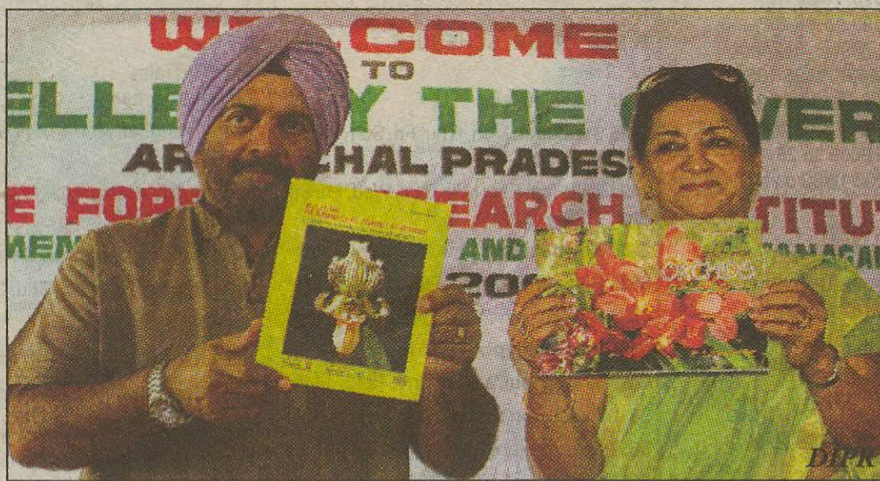


Plant more trees for better future: Guv



By Staff Reporter
ITANAGAR, Aug 07: Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd) JJ Singh today inaugurated the officers' guest house of Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation Limited at its office premises in Chimpu here.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh expressed his happiness on the role of the State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) and hoped that its efforts would benefit the state. Complimenting the people for preserving the rich diversity of flora and fauna of the state, he said it is essential

to preserve them for the next generation.

Recollecting those days in the Army when he was posted in Lohit, Tirap and Changlang districts, he said he still found it amazing that even after 25 years the state's landscape hasn't changed much. Arunachal has so far retained much of its forest cover and nature hasn't been destroyed by mankind, he observed.

Singh, however, urged the people to stop reckless felling of trees and suggested that they plant more trees instead. He la-

mented that there is neither a law nor any incentive for those who plant trees.

Exhorting the SFRI to take the lead in the development of cane, bamboo and medicinal plant products, Singh strongly advocated the harvesting of non timber forest products (NTFP), seeing that the state is full of plants including those with high medicinal values, herbal and other products.

He stressed on undertaking cash crop cultivation and said besides rubber organic tea cultivation should be taken up, the way it is being done in Darjeeling.

Reiterating his desire to make Arunachal the topmost producer of bamboo and its products, he urged the people to plant bamboos on a massive scale to generate employment and boost the state's economy. He said he was disheartened to know that Nagaland is exporting bamboo products to Arunachal whereas the state is supplying bamboo saplings to *Contd. P.3*

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From P.1...the former. He also suggested that the people practice the profitable venture of beekeeping.

Singh felt the need to promote tourism and asked the people to construct eco-friendly guest houses using locally available materials, design and architecture to woo tourists.

Earlier, SRFI director GN Sinha presented a brief overview of the forestry sector in the development planning of the state. He called the centre's Look East policy relevant to the state as it promises economic development with growth.

The governor later discussed the details of a plan to revive the forest corporation with Dr Ashok K Singhal and B Maheshwari.

APFCL chairman Gadam Ete, GN Sinha and DM (M&E) G Rime among others were present during the inauguration.