

August 18, 2008

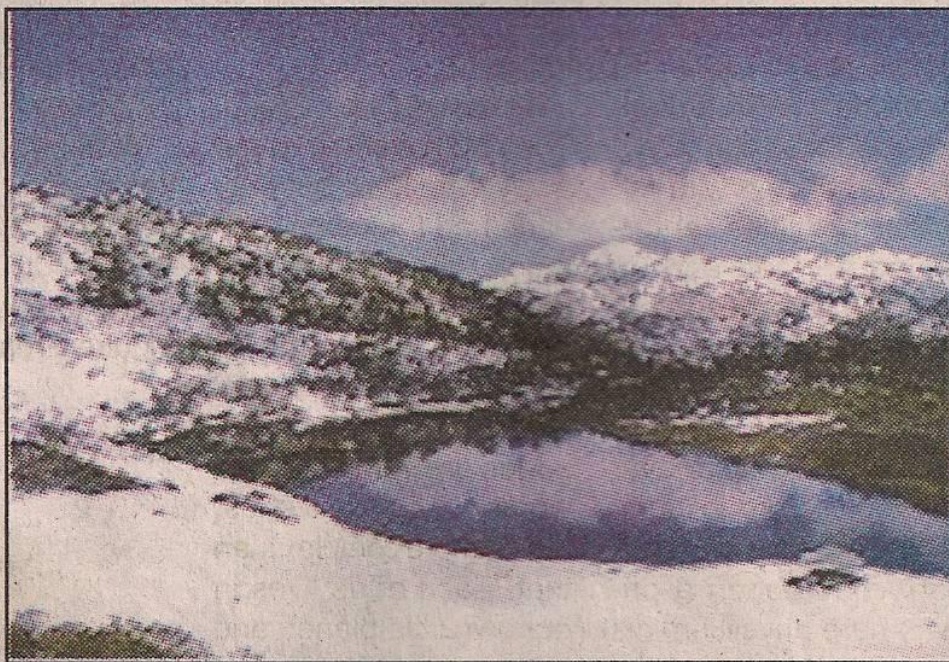
Tawang tourism on Guv agenda

TAWANG, Aug 17: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh, who is taking a keen interest in the development of the state's tourism sector, visited the picturesque Shongatser Lake area near here on August 15 last, coinciding with the special border personnel meeting between Indian and Chinese armies at Bumla, on the Sino-India border.

The first governor to visit Tawang during Independence Day celebration, Singh, who was on a three-day tour of the district known for the 400-year-old Tawang Monastery from August 14 along with first lady Anupama Singh, visited the border to interact with the troops deployed there, and to monitor the area's tourism prospects, reports DIPRO.

It may be recalled here that the governor had visited the Lumpo area here in April last before air dashing to New Delhi to take up with Union Tourism Minister Ambika Soni the potential of tourism industry to change the state's economic status.

The meeting had ended with the minister committing Rs 70 lakh for promoting rural tourism in Arunachal and for additional



The picturesque Pankang Teng Tso (P.T. Tso) lake near Tawang

cable cars over the waterfalls in Lumpo area, also located along the Chinese border.

Putting tourism sector on its priority agenda, particularly adventure sports and tourism, the state government has proposed a world class mountaineering institute in Dirang. Moreover, the Itanagar Greenfield airport and 9 other airstrips in different parts of the state, expected to come up in 4 to 5 years, would give a thrust to the high potential tourism sector.

In fact, the governor during that trip had met Union Minister

of Civil Aviation Praful Patel and advocated more STOL (short take off and landing) capacity airstrips to cover the mountainous regions of Arunachal.

Singh had also met Railways Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, who, in a goodwill gesture, offered a toy-train for the children of Arunachal.

Lalu also sanctioned the 32 km Harmuti-Itanagar railway line for which the railways has finalized the tender to commence work from September next, subject to allotment of land by the state government.

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Tawang tourism ...



Governor with students of Manjushree Vidyapith

From P.I. In the afternoon of the 15th, the governor visited the Manjushree Vidyapith orphanage here and be-

sides interacting with the students and the staff he declared Rs 1 lakh towards the institution's corpus fund.

On his way back to Itanagar, Singh visited the Lumla ADC HQ on the 16th. He laid the foundation stone of the Arya

Deva Eklavya residential school and, along with the first lady, planted trees there, the report adds.