

Governor, CM offer peace, dev mantras



ITANAGAR, Dec 18: Under-scoring the need of a peaceful atmosphere in the state for all-round development, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh today advocated his 'iron fist and velvet gloves' principle to the state's law enforcing agencies to deal with antisocial elements and with the needy respectively.

"Follow the principle of 'iron fist and velvet gloves' while dealing with law breakers and the common people," he said after inaugurating the two-day conference of deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SP) at Banquet Hall here this morning.

The governor, who attended the meeting along with Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu, urged police officers to be committed to detecting and preventing crime, protecting life and property, preserving peace and maintaining law and order to safeguard the constitutional rights guaranteed to all citizens.

"Efforts should be there to improve every individual life by involving the stakehold-

ers and cultivating ethical practices that address the situation and send a strong message in the society," he said.

Expressing concern over increasing crimes in the state due to urban agglomeration and militancy, the governor advised the officers to be alert and to impress upon every member of the society to do so too. Intelligence sharing across police stations and districts is one way to control crimes, he said, and urged the officers to keep abreast of criminal developments and learn the nuances of each situation to address it skillfully.

Referring to the frequent *bandh* calls sponsored by various organizations in the state, the governor stressed on the need to address the practice seriously, and said such shutdowns impact adversely on the state's economy besides causing hardship to the common people.

On unemployment, he said since it is not possible for the government to provide jobs to all unemployed youths, efforts should be

Explore every avenue: Khandu: Presenting a dismal scenario of state's own revenue resources, Khandu in his speech asked the DCs and SPs to make concerted efforts to generate more revenue.

Explore every possible avenue for revenue collection, including through taxes and royalties, he said.

Arunachal is suffering around 47% revenue loss from royalty on forest produce since the Supreme Court ban on timber operation in 1995, and we are presently earning only 13% revenue from the government departments, the Border Road Task Force (BRTF) and the Army, the CM pointed out.

"The state has failed to get even that amount as many departments, including the Army and the BRTF, do not like to pay regularly," he lamented.

Khandu directed the district heads to initiate measures to ensure regular royalty payment and to not give clearance to any road to the BRTF unless the royalties are fixed. He also advised the DCs to allot land to Army establishments only after fixing the royalties.

Taxes should be collected regularly from petrol depots, government departments and other sources to help the government tide over its financial crisis, he said.

Terming the DCs and SPs the mirror of the government, the CM urged them to perform their duties dedicatedly to upkeep the government's 'People First' watchword. He also asked them to properly monitor the public distribution system and to initiate suitable action against erring officials and contractors.

Expressing concern over large-scale encroachment of government land, Khandu suggested constituting a committee under the chief secretary and to fix land tax for encroachers who have settled in a particular land for over 40 years, and monitoring the land allotment processes. UNI

Governor, CM...

From P.I... made by the district heads to create avenues of employment by exploring new areas such as bamboo cultivation and processing, fruit plantation, aromatic and medicinal plants, beekeeping, organic farming, handloom and handicrafts and tourism.

"Train the local population on these income generating activities and emphasize on tourism and the concept of home stay," he added.

An innovative DC could come out with an effective multi-dimensional developmental strategy, he said, adding that the information-education-communication (IEC) component of various schemes could also be dovetailed together.

"As a vital wing of governance, your approach should be people-friendly and you should reengineer your processes, keeping the common citizens at the centre," he said. Singh urged the officers to meticulously monitor every central scheme and project under the PM's package by involving panchayat leaders.

He also stressed the need for revenue generation through tax and royalty on various forest produces to bail out the state from its resource crunch.

On a different note, referring to the editorial titled 'Breaking news, not views', carried in the December 18 issue of this daily, the governor called it a piece written in the true spirit of journalism.