

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS,**  
**NAHARLAGAN**

No IPR (PR) 03/2008

Dated, Naharlagun, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

**Press Release No 1209**

**Governor participates in Jessore Day celebration**

**Itanagar, Dec. 4:** Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd.) J.J. Singh exhorted officers and personnel of 9 Infantry Division of Indian Army to prepare hard and maintain team spirit to face any challenge. The Governor was addressing them on the occasion of Jessore Day celebration, which commemorates the Army Divisions victory over the Jessore garrison, now in Bangladesh in the Indo-Pak War of 1971. Attending the celebration in Meerut Cantonment on 3rd December 2011, the Governor advised the officers to build the spirit in the peace time and always lead from front. Motivating the personnel of the Division, which is christened as Pine Division the Governor said that there is no shortcut to success. He added that if you do not give up, God will be with you and success will be yours. General Singh, who commanded the Infantry Division in 1996-98 nostalgically recalling his days with the Division, said that it was, one of the most challenging phases of his service life, **reports PRO to Governor.**

The Governor, who never misses an occasion to draw attention of people towards Arunachal Pradesh, highlighted the unique features of the State, its flora and fauna and the people. He called upon the officers and personnel to visit the State as tourist and experience the hospitality of the tribal community.

Earlier in the function, the Governor released a coffee table book, The Pine Warriors which gives pictorial details of the saga of valour of the Division from 1940 to 2011. Lt General (Retd.) Mathew Thomas, who commanded the Division in 1976-78 and present General Officer in Command, Maj General SK Gadeock also spoke on the occasion. Lt. General (Retd.) I.J. Khanna, who commanded it in 1980-82 and many serving and retired officers of the Division, attended the 40th commemoration celebration. Before leaving for Delhi on 4th December 2011, the Governor laid wreath at the Pine War Memorial and visited the archive of the Division, which recalls the details of the wars the Division fought since its inception. The Governor also visited the newly built Jessore Park.

The history of 1971 Indo-Pak war bears testimony to numerous fierce battles won with great tenacity and unsurpassed heroism by war heroes of 9 Infantry Division, which not only provided a decisive edge to the Indian Army in the 1971 campaign, but also contributed phenomenally towards enhancement of national pride and honor.

The gallant and victorious troops of the Pine Division entered Jessore cantonment (erstwhile East Pakistan) and unfurled the tricolor, which signaled the end of an era of oppression and exploitation by the erstwhile Pakistani Military rulers in East Pakistan. The Commanders of Pakistan's 107 Infantry brigade, Brig Hayat Khan signed the 'Instrument of Surrender of Jessore' on the lawns of Khulna Rest House before Maj Gen Dalbir Singh, the then GOC of the Pine Division. 81 Pakistani officers, 130 JCOs and more than 3476 men had surrendered along with large number of weapons and ammunition, **adds the PRO.**

**Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO**