

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
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65th Raising Day of Headquarters Western Command, Chandimandir, Punjab

Itanagar Sept. 21: Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd) JJ Singh attended the 65th Raising Day of Headquarters Western Command as Chief Guest at the Military Station, Chandimandir, Punjab on 15th September 2012. The occasion coincided with the two-day Western Army Commanders Conclave held at Headquarters Western Command on 14th and 15th September 2012, **reports PRO to Governor**

As part of the celebration, General Singh, who was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Command from 1st February 2004 to 31st January 2005, paid floral tributes at the Veer Smriti, the command War Memorial. He also participated in plantation programme at Jadunath Sainik Institute joined by seven former commanders of Western Command, including former governor of J&K and Assam Lieutenant General S K Sinha and present Army commander, Western Command, Lieutenant General Sanjiv Chachra. An interaction with the retired officers and their families was organized at Khetarpal Officers Institute at Chandimandir.

Interacting with officers and personnel of the Command, General Singh exhorted them to continue the rich traditions of the Western Command and uphold the highest military values and ethos.

It may be mentioned here that Western Command has a glorious history of valour and dedication and has played a stellar role in preserving the territorial integrity of the nation. It was instrumental in effectively blunting the Pakistani aggression in 1947, 1965 and 1971. Its troops, formations and units have always distinguished themselves, winning a large number of gallantry awards, including 11 Param Vir Chakras.

The Western Command, also known as the sentinels of the sunset today is responsible for the defence of parts of J&K and Punjab besides maintaining vigil in the Himachal Pradesh sector of the border with China. Its administrative jurisdiction sees it interacting with five states and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Western Command has taken up a large number of issues with the states for the betterment of the serving and ex-servicemen community.

General Singh took over as the General Officer Commanding-In-Chief Western Command on 1st February 2004, and his tenure at this elite command provided an opportunity to put into practice the concepts and doctrines evolved at ARTRAC (Army Training Command). He refined operational planning by co-opting the battle-winning role of Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) and provided focused direction based on the recently released Doctrine for the Indian Army, having earlier been its architect. He simultaneously gave training a visionary direction in conjunction with principles of synergetic cohesiveness at all levels. His tenure at Western Command also saw a quantum leap in the implementation of the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).

General Singh took over as the 22nd Chief of Army Staff on 31st January 2005 and commanded the second largest Army of the world till 30 Sept 2007. The General was appointed as Governor of the State of Arunachal Pradesh in January 2008 and was sworn in on 27th January 2008.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO