

## Press Release No-240

### Governor inaugurates a national seminar

**Itanagar, Mar. 9:** Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd) J.J. Singh inaugurated a two-day national seminar on India-China relation with a theme, 'Voice from the border: Indian's response to the Chinese claim on Arunachal Pradesh' at Golden Jubilee Banquet Hall, Itanagar on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012, *reports PRO to Governor.*

In his inaugural address, the Governor said, India and China are emerging powers seeking rightful place on the world state as together the two countries make up a third of mankind. The Indo China relation has assumed huge significance for stability, peace and prosperity of the region.

Stating that the two countries may be competitors but not rivals, the Governor and added both countries have a strategic and cooperative partnership in place and there is enough space for sustained economic and social development and trade for both.

Recollecting facts from history, the Governor pointed that this part of the region has trade and social relation with Ahoms of Assam. Referring authoritative Chinese works of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, he said that entire tribal belt has been shown outside Tibet.

The Governor said McMahan line, which was signed in 1914 and initiated by the Chinese delegate, should be taken as the international border as it is based on international law and practice dealing with boundary delineation.

The Governor was of the opinion that the resolution of Sino-Indian border issue needs to be addressed on a faster pace. At the same time, he added that there are a whole lot of measures being taken by India to safeguard the territorial integrity and defend the country against any aggression.

Giving the chairman's remark, Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University Prof. Mrinal Miri called for a mature approach the issue and should be beyond State and political ambitions. Recalling ancient religious links, he said that while dealing with the subject all should make sure that facts are correct and not be carried away by emotions.

Delivering the keynote address, former India's Ambassador to China C.V. Ranganathan dwelled in length on the relation, which has geopolitical importance in Asia. He added that as India and China's interest intersect each other in central, south and south East Asia, the relationship called for diplomacy of highest degree.

While introducing the seminar Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong, Deputy Director Dr. C.J. Thomas said that the world is changing from uni-polar to multi-polar with several countries emerging significantly. Stating that the seminar is an academic exercise, he called for finding amiable solution to the issue.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University Professor David R. Syiemlieh delivered the welcome address. Rajiv Gandhi University Head of Department of Political Science, Dr. Nani Bath also spoke in the inaugural session of the seminar.

Eminent speakers like Professor in Chinese Studies Srikanth Kondapalli, Gurudas Das and Jajati Patnaik spoke on changing global geo-political environment, while Jabin T. Jacob, Namrata Goswami, Col Ajai Shukla, Prasenjit Biswas, Otem Moyong and Prasanta Kumar Nayak gave presentations on Arunachal factor with its historical background.

Lt General John Mukherjee, former Member of Parliament Kiren Rijiju, Sonia Shukla, National Youth Awardee Gomar Basar and editor of Arunachal Front Pradeep Kumar will give presentation in the second day on Grass-root views on Chinese claim over Arunachal Pradesh.

Mr. Subir Bhaumik and Mr. Mathew Akester will enlighten on the impact of Chinese claim on North Eastern region while D.S. Rajan, Ishani Naskar and H. Srikanth will deliver options for settlement of Sino-Indian Border Disputes.

In the inaugural session, the Governor released a book, titled 'Security and Development in India's Northeast' by Gurudas Das, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Silchar.

The two-day seminar is being organized by Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hill, Doimukh and Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Large numbers of Eminent speakers, distinguished guests and invitees, members of press media and students from RGU, NERIST, Dera Natung Government College and other colleges of capital complex are attending the seminar, *the report added.*

Sd/- Denga Bengia,PRO.