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Governor addresses special Sainik Sammelan

Itanagar, Nov 14: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh addressed a special Sainik Sammelan of 17 Maratha Light Infantry, on its raising day celebration at Tenga in West Kameng district on Nov 14 last. The battalion was re-raised at Belgaum on 15th November 1962 under the Command of Lt. Col (Maj Gen) E D'Souza, PVSM (Retd.), **reports PRO to Governor**

Speaking on the occasion, Gen Singh, who is the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment for life said, I feel proud to see your enthusiasm, battle readiness, discipline and high standard of your unit. I am very proud to learn about your warfare proficiency.

Touching bit of the History of battalion, he said, in World War II in Myebon Peninsula your battalion was awarded with Battle Honour Ruywa. After you're re-raising in 1962, you have continued the rich tradition in 1965 and 1971 wars. In operation Pawan and Operation Parakram, you displayed yourself as the premier, fervour and capable unit.

Exhorting the officers and jawans, Gen Singh, whose grandfather fought in World War II along with 1 Maratha Light Infantry (103rd Battalion), 2 Maratha Light Infantry and 5 Maratha Light Infantry said, in my life I am an example for you that a soldier's son can be a Colonel and a Colonel's son can be a General. I always kept my motto and that is 'Fight to Win' and 'Win by a knock out punch.' There is no second best in war. I am happy that your motto is 'We can do it.' This displays the warrior spirit of your battalion. We Marathas are proud that we follow the path of patriotism and nationalism show by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, he added.

Extending his best wishes to the personnel and their family and expressing his confidence on the unit that in every task and challenge, it will come back with success and will make Marathas and the battalion proud, Gen Singh pointed, your battalion won the Inter Battalion Ghatak Competition in your Division, three times in a row displays a new professional standard and is praiseworthy. He also appreciated the efforts of the battalion in rendering necessary help to the local populace.

Commanding Officer of 17 Maratha LI, Col Ashish Thakur, SC, officiating Sub Maj Suresh Bhonsle and troops were present in the Sammelan. As token of appreciation, on behalf of people of Arunachal Pradesh, Governor presented a memento to the unit for their good work in the State.

It may be noted that alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Gen Singh was commissioned into the 9 Maratha Light Infantry (LI) on 2nd August 1964. He was made the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment for life for his immense contributions to the Maratha Regiment on 22nd October 2008.

In order to have cordial relations with denizens of the area, since it stationing at West Kameng district, 17 Maratha LI has undertaken numerous initiatives, including 'Know your Army' mela showcasing various arms and equipments of the army beside their practical demonstrations, its superb band, which was appreciated by all, especially the local denizens. Basic computer training course for girls at Bomdila as part of its endeavour towards women empowerment, pre-recruitment trainings in view of raising of Arunachal Scouts, medical camps in interior villages along with other social services towards indigenous populace have always being the part of the battalions activities.

Earlier, on his arrival at Rupa Helipad, near Bomdila, Governor was received by West Kameng Deputy Commissioner Rinchin Tashi, GOC 5 Mtn Div, Maj General A K Ahuja, Brigadier Jarken Gamlin and Commanding Officer 17 Maratha LI Col Ashish Thakur and other senior officers of District administration and the Army.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, PRO