

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma addressed the 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary of North Eastern Council at New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The Governor raised the issues of road connectivity, look east policy, railway and hydropower projects and strengthening of infrastructure along the border area.

Emphasizing on need for better road connectivity in the State, the Governor said that Border Roads Organisation is assigned responsibility for implementation of road in Arunachal Pradesh through Vartak, Bramkank, Udayak and Arunank projects. There is need for greater co-ordination between these projects. A senior officer of the rank of Additional Director General of BRO tasked with responsibility of co-ordinating these four projects should be posted in Arunachal Pradesh for proper monitoring of these projects and co-ordination amongst project officers, State Government and Union Government.

Urging the North Eastern Council to take a lead in developing the 160 km road from Pangsau (India) – Myitkyina (Myanmar) on the lines of Tamu-Kaleywa Indo - Myanmar Friendship road, the Governor said that India's Look East Policy holds immense potential for the region. North east region is the lynchpin for success of this policy, with connectivity as its prime concern. Therefore the focus must be on developing the historic Stillwell Road.

While sharing his experience of his visit to Changlang District of the State, the Governor stressed on need for formalize and improvise the trade through Pangsau Pass, making trading a regular feature and Pangsau town a trading hub. To facilitate the initiative, the Governor called for co-opting a senior officer from ministry of External Affairs in the NEC.

Sharing his view on the lone railway project of the State, the Governor informed that the project of Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway link which will connect State Capital is due for completion in December 2013. As envisaged in NER Vision 2020 document, Survey for Murkongseleg to Pasighat and Rupai to Parshuramkund Railway Project were supposed to be started on but even after signing of the document in 2008, no progress has been made on this project. Calling for starting work on the railway projects with a time-bound schedule the Governor said that while the new project would be commissioned in due course of time, there is urgent need of ensuring timely completion of ongoing Bogeebil Road-cum-Rail Bridge, connecting Dibrugarh and Dhemaji . This bridge will improve connectivity not only for Assam but also for Arunachal Pradesh. It would connect the eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh with the rest of the State.

While raising the issue of the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri project which was started in January 2005, the Governor said that construction work at site has come to grinding halt since 20th December 2011. So far, Rs. 6000 crores have been spent and the project is more than half way through and because of some issues between NHPC, Government of Assam, this is resulting in time and cost Overrun causing huge loss to national exchequer. The issues between concerned parties need to be resolved urgently. He called for some forward movement through NEC. He appealed to his counterpart in Assam and Chief Ministers of both States, Government of India and NEC to take steps to resolve these issues and get work started on this projects at the earliest.

Emphasizing on strengthening infrastructure along the border, the Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh has a long international border with three different countries china, Myanmar with Bhutan. The council needs to lay special emphasis on development of border areas and supplement the resources of BADP. He informed that the State Government has submitted proposal for three projects viz. connecting 22 Un-connected Administrative Centres, providing Drinking Water Facilities in Border and construction of Porter Tracks, Log Bridges and Foot Suspension Bridges in Border Areas, for local Army and Para-Military Forces. He requested NEC and MHA to allocate additional resources for these projects.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, July 16, 2013