

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma delivered the key note address in the inaugural session of two-day National Conference on Northeast India: Strategic and Developmental imperatives jointly organised by Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi and Special Branch, Assam Police at Guwahati on 15th July 2013.

In his address the Governor said that the North Eastern States of India are a critical part of the future growth, development and strategic positioning of India. Stating that Eight Countries are within radius of 1000 K.M if North East, which constitute 24.6% of the world population and one of the largest economies, the Governor said that North East has to graduate from a transit route to a driver of economic growth looking East to and fro.

In order to fulfil the strategic and developmental imperative, the region needs to handle the challenge of isolation, both due to the physical terrain as well as the historical accident of partition, which are affecting the costs of imports and exports as well as the integration with the rest of India.

The Governor emphasised on enhancing transportation and communication infrastructure, including waterways, wealth creation through industrial development and tourism and manage immigration. He also stressed on harnessing the economic potential and balanced exploitation of the rich bio diversity.

Highlighting that more than 80% of the people of the region reside in the rural areas and depend on agriculture, the Governor called for more emphasis on agriculture sector along with horticulture and other allied sectors. New scientific methods and technologies must be made available to the agrarian community, he added.

Stressing on empowerment of the people of the region through inclusive governance, the Governor pointed that involving them in governance at micro level will instil sense of belonging and lead to efficient and maximum utilization of resources. It will also instil sense of social accountability.

Conference was attended by Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi and scholars and experts from colleges and universities, opinion makers, and senior government officials.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
Guwahati, July 16, 2013