

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma addressed the participants of the two-day conference on the theme 'Building Pan-Asian Connectivity', organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in a special meeting at Kolkata on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor emphasized on building better connectivity within and among the Asian countries. The Governor said that connectivity will promote development through regional integration and enhances security. He further added that the most crucial pre-requisition is realizing the vital link between security and development. The main area of concern is the spill over effect of socio-economic inequality and resultant insurgencies. The 'cause' and 'effect' have to be dealt with simultaneously at a regional basis, cutting across national boundaries.

Underscoring the recent thrust by the Government of India to 'Act East', the Governor said that the endeavour of Union Government requires developing connectivity within its natural area of economic inter-dependence, enhancing regional and global markets by expanding capacities and creating a multi transportation model. The economic benefits that will accrue from the joint effort will be phenomenal, he pointed.

Highlighting the enormous potential of the region and cost to harness it, he said that the untapped economic potential of the core of East and Southeast Asia region, when realized would not only mitigate the developmental cost to an extent but also restore socio-economic balance. The challenge now is to build better connection for meeting basic needs such as water, sanitation, electricity, transport, and telecommunications, as well as for trade facilitation and further integration of regional production networks. If Asia were to seize the opportunity of building regional connectivity in the entire continent, there is a need to recognise that today's opportunity may not present itself in future, the Governor stressed.

In his address, the Governor also highlighted on trans-boundary issues like building of dams and apprehension and concerns in the region on River Brahmaputra. He called for upstream-downstream interactions within the region and with respect to the contiguous Himalayan areas as the issues is contributing to the conflict scenario. The Governor also called for preservation of the environment and balance the wheel of development in tune with it.

Representatives from ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries and United States of America are participating in the conference, which includes Ambassador Richard Verma, US ambassador to India and many distinguished diplomats and intellectuals.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, March 11, 2015

Note:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) counties are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal