

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Governor calls for strengthening cooperation between China & India

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt.Gen.(Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma has emphasised that the future of India and China should be defined by cooperation and not by confrontation adding that the benefits of cooperation far outweigh any presumed gains from containment. "India and China's dreams of being strong, developed and prosperous nations are interconnected and mutually compatible," he added

The Governor was delivering the closing address of the two-day seminar 'Voices from Arunachal: India-China Border Problems and related Arunachal Folklore' at Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh, today. He commended the collaborative initiative to understand the local perspective at the grassroots of the border state by documenting the folklores and oral history adding that "We must listen to the issues that matter to the people of the State and appreciate their take on them."

"The opinions, outlook, experiences, historical perspectives and social memory of Arunachalees are valuable in knowing their vision for the development of the State and lending a perspective to solving the boundary dispute."

Underlining the relevance of recording cultural aspects and folklore, the Governor said that along with recorded history, local folklores of the various ethnic groups of the state help shed light on the past, providing a credible geo-political identity of the tribal communities of the frontier State.

On the occasion, he also pointed out the economic & vital strategic significance of Arunachal Pradesh and the NE region and the potentials of the NE region in terms of its proximity to eight Asian countries as doorway to the South East and East Asia.

Highlighting on demographic connectivity, he said that Arunachal Pradesh has ancient linkages with places like Tibet and Myanmar etc through human migration over the ages. Buddhism spread from India to different cultures, particularly to Asian countries. However, he opined that such factors cannot be the basis of a Nation –State as he observed religious and cultural affinity is beyond borders.

Stressing on pursuing security and development, the Governor said that we must work towards matching infrastructural capacities. " Infrastructural development in the border region can also boost economic linkages while referring to revitalisation of old Silk routes and Stilwell Road."

He said that the Union government is working on strengthening bi-lateral relations on the basis of Prime Minister's vision as " Inch Towards Miles".

The Seminar is organised by Research Centre for Eastern and North Eastern Regional Studies, Kolkata and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, March 26, 2015