

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma addressed the 64th Plenary of North Eastern Council (NEC) at New Delhi on 10th April 2015. Chaired by Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, the two-day plenary which began on 9th was attended by Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor called for strengthening the NEC and make it a 'Think Tank' on strategic planning for the region. He said that it should play the role of representative of State Governments with ministries of Government of India on following up the State projects. The Governor emphasised on institutionalizing this function and taken forward effectively for overall goal of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The Governor called for equal development in every part of the region. He pointed that for strategic reasons and to bring equitable growth and progress, there is a need for more focus on the region north of River Brahmaputra. Trans-Brahmaputra connectivity and need based locating and shifting of certain administrative headquarters of the Central Government are therefore necessary. It is more so for the sensitive state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Reiterating that lack of Connectivity is the biggest hurdle to the development in the region and is holding up unlocking of the vast economic potential of the region, the Governor put forward the immediate requirement of expediting the construction and up-gradation of roads in Arunachal Pradesh involving 5,000 kms. The Governor said that to achieve it in a reasonable time frame, the capacities of the State has to be enhanced many fold and processes and procedures streamlined. He suggested that BRO with all its experience in road construction in the mountains is best suited, be concentrated in Himalayas states, while NHAI & other agencies working in other states.

Conveying goodwill of the people to Prime Minister for inaugurating the Itanagar-Delhi AC Express and Itanagar-Guwahati Intercity Express train service, the Governor stressed on expediting the work on other strategic lines to Tawang and Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh. He also underscored that one of the important projects of Indian Railways, the Bogibeel Bridge must also be monitored to ensure that it meets the revised timeline of mid 2017. Its completion will be a major factor in the socio-economic development of this region and shall also fill the strategic void in Trans-Brahmaputra movement, he added. The Governor also stressed on monitoring to expedite the final phase of activating the NEC funded Tezu Airport.

Informing that the site for Greenfield Airport at Holongi has been finalized and 8 (Eight) Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) coming up in the border districts of State of Arunachal Pradesh, the Governor urged upon the NEC to advise the concerned agencies to expedite the work in a time bound manner.

The Governor suggested that until the time the Hollongi Airport project is commissioned, reliable air service from the fully developed Airport at Lilabari must be improved on highest priority.

In addition to the upcoming ALGs, two more ALGs are required at Koloriang in Kurung Kumey District and Anini in Dibang Valley District. These ALGs need to be developed on priority for strategic reasons.

The Governor opined that ALGs created must be utilized not only for Defence purpose and carriage of civil passengers and goods, but for ferrying construction materials for infrastructure development also. He suggested that aircraft services be planned simultaneously to avoid any delay in starting the service.

The Governor also emphasised on exploring and harnessing the inland waterways potential in the State.

Highlighting the vast tourism potential of the State, the Governor wished that NEC facilitates in harnessing it.

Stating that country's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2020 and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Act East' and 'Made India' crusades will depend to a large extent on the enhanced economic cooperation with its extended neighbourhood of South East Asian countries, the Governor said that people of the region must prepare themselves to be contributors and main stakeholders in the mission. The North East has to be seen more than a transit route.

Recalling age-old border trades of the people with the neighbouring countries, the Governor stressed on institutionalising it for socio-economic upliftment of the local populous, State and the country. He suggested for setting up of formal trading mechanism at Pangsau Pass, connecting the State with South East Asian nations and making it a part of Kolkata-Kunming initiative. He underscored that NEC must take up the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and find out modalities for providing access to the international neighbours in a regulated manner.

In his speech, the Governor also laid focus on developing the power sector, human resources, skill development and entrepreneurship, telecommunication and financial inclusion. He urged upon the Central Government through the NEC for addressing the requirements of the State.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, April 10, 2015