

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General Nirbhay Sharma has conveyed warm regards and good wishes to the people of the State on the eve of his departure from Arunachal Pradesh. In his message to the people on the occasion, he said that 'My heart fills with gratitude each time I remember the deep love and affection that my wife Smt Jyotsna and I have received from each one of you. I shall ever remain indebted for this'.

Recalling his association with the State, the Governor said that he considers his association with the State very sacred and fulfilling. During this long association, I witnessed many changes in its developmental phase. It is my firm belief that this beautiful and resourceful State of our country can be developed into a model State with its immense natural bounty and hard working, resilient people.

The Governor said that being Head of the geo-strategically most significant State of India is a matter of great pride and privilege. During my tenure, I tried to do my duty to the country and the State to the best of my ability and drew a lot of satisfaction from it. As your 'Gaon Burah' or First Servant of the State, my special emphasis has been on security and development of the State. In that, I was able to draw the attention of both Central and State Governments and other agencies to the vital facets of connectivity in all its dimensions i.e. road, railway, water ways and digitisation. Development of border areas and instilling a sense of security amongst the population has always been on my agenda. It is heartening to find that a number of these efforts have either fructified, or are in the pipeline. Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the Centre of gravity of the Central Govt. has now shifted to the North East in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular. Within the parameters of environmental norms as these initiatives get in place, the State will be able to unlock its huge economic potential in hydropower, tourism and agriculture.

Appreciating the civil society in the State for getting increasingly emboldened and engaging with the State Govt. to improve governance, the Governor said that the State is indeed maturing and evolving, both politically and socially. It is a good omen and augurs well for a vibrant society.

Reminding all of the steps advised by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Governor said that in the arena of political discourse, i.e. discussion, debate and dissent with no room for disruption or destruction, as national interest is supreme.

Taking this opportunity to address the youth, who constitute more than 40% of the population, the Governor appealed to the youth to channelize their energy and effort in a constructive manner, rather than indulging in destructive and unhealthy practices. He said that he found an encouraging trend and would like the youth to exert peer pressure on those who have gone astray. In this, I am particularly concerned about the drug menace and its adverse impact on society. In this regard, I find that our women can play an influential role. Our many achievers in the field of education, social work and sports are doing us proud and should be seen as role models by the youth in particular. I appeal to the elders of the society to fulfil their moral responsibility towards 'Generation Next'. Please guide and mentor the younger generation to enable them to realize their full potential.

The Governor stated that the issues of skill development, health and education form the bedrock of human resource development. I am glad that these areas are receiving due attention of the Govt. I will not go into each and every aspect of the developmental initiatives undertaken by the Govt., but would like to compliment them for all the effort. I also appreciate the renewed focus on perspective planning, fiscal management, transparency and accountability. The Chief Minister and his team have also launched a number of socio-economic welfare schemes. I am certain that these will help the masses. But to quote Robert Frost, "We have miles to go before we sleep."

Recalling his interaction with the people, the Governor said, "As I leave this beloved State of mine, the overwhelming love and affection showered by you has touched us deeply. During my district tours and interaction with various sections of the society in the entire State, my wife and I were showered with unmatched respect and care. We will cherish this experience for ever. Thankfully, we are still going to be part of the North East, but irrespective of that, the bond with you all will remain with us forever. I wish the State of Arunachal Pradesh peace and prosperity, which the State richly deserves".

Conveying his good wishes to Governor designate, the Governor said "I am very happy to note that my successor Shri J.P. Rajkhowa is not only an able administrator, but also a renowned scholar and thinker with a deep understanding of the region. I am certain the State will continue to flourish and scale even greater heights during his tenure and Arunachalees will shower him with the same love and affection that has been showered on us".

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, May 25, 2015