

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Continuing his endeavour to improve the road communication in the State, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa called on the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari at Delhi on 7th October 2015.

The Governor said that the State of Arunachal Pradesh has been suffering for decades due to absolutely poor road-connectivity, both within the State as well as with the other States from North East and the mainland India. For the socioeconomic development of the State as also the success of the Act East Policy, it will be necessary to improve the road connectivity of Arunachal Pradesh with the rest of India and also to improve the connectivity within the State by connecting all the District Headquarters of 21 Districts, ADC Headquarters, EAC Headquarters, Circle Headquarters as also important towns and clusters and villages, through building up and upgrading existing National Highways and State roads.

While conveying his appreciation to the minister for taking bold steps in improving the connectivity through the Trans-Arunachal Highway Project, which is under different stages of implementation by the BRTF, NHIDCL, State PWD, etc, the Governor added that in the same line, the roads from Assam border to the twin cities of Itanagar- Naharlagun, which are in terrible shape, need to be maintained and upgraded as per ongoing NH-52, NH-52A, NH-415 up-gradation projects.

The Governor suggested that for improving road connectivity within the State along International Border areas there is a need for a Frontier Highway connecting all the important centres along the Internation border, through the districts of Tawang, West Kameng, East Kameng, Kurung Kumey, Kra Dadi, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley and Anjaw.

The Governor, while reiterating for construction of East-West Industrial Corridor of Arunachal Pradesh, suggested the construction of East-West Industrial Corridor from Bhairabkund (West Kameng District) to Ruksin (East Siang District) via Bhalukpong-Seijusa-Digalmukh-Balijan-Naharlagan–Kimin-Likabali-Dipa-Nari (431Km), along the Inter-State Border with Assam. He pointed that the Trans-Arunachal National Highway from Tawang to Longding shall pass through the mid-belt of the State, however, East-West Industrial Highway is very essential to connect the foot hill habitations for future development of demand and resource-based industries in the State. This road will also immensely facilitate mobilization of manpower and equipments for development of hydropower projects also.

The Governor, who had taken up the issue of road communication in the Governors' Conference on Act East Policy, reiterated that under the Act East Policy, 12 Nos. of Inter-State road in SARDP-NE, Phase-B (Orphaned Road) should be taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL). Taking up the Indo-Bhutan-Lumla-Tashigang Road with the Union Minister, the Governor said that the road

project should be taken up urgently for strengthening the border trade between the two countries. Apart from giving an alternate road for the people of Tawang to reach Guwahati and other parts of the country, this road will facilitate trade, tourism and other economic activities between the two countries. The Indian portion of the road from Lumla up-to the borders of Bhutan has already been completed and is motorable upto the Indo-Bhutan border point (Warongde) on Indian side. A small stretch of 12 Kms from Warongde to Khinye (Bhutan) remains to be connected, beyond which the all weather road exists connecting all parts of Bhutan. The distance from Tawang to Guwahati via Samdrupdzongkar is 395 KM compared to the normal route, which is about 550 Km and thus a distance of 155 Km could be avoided.

In the meeting, the Governor also called for upgrading the 160 Km of the Historic Stilwell Road on Myanmar side as part of "Good Will Mission" under the Act East Policy, as the 61 Km Indian portion has already been developed by Ministry of RT & H as NH-153.

Striving for the cause of people of militancy affected Districts, the Governor requested the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, for his intervention in sanctioning and construction of about 47 Km stretch from the BRTF road point, Khonsa Village to BRTF road point, Khanu Village, Longding District, thereby connecting the two circle head quarters opened in 1957-58.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways assured to look into the issues positively.

Later the Governor also called on the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at New Delhi. The Governor, who recently chaired a high level Law and Order Review meeting briefed the Union Home Minister on security issues, including impact of recent Hon'ble Supreme Court verdict on Chakma Hajong issue.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, October 7, 2015