

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNOR FOR THREE TO FOUR MORE AIRPORTS IN THE STATE

**Constitute a high-power Expert Site Selection Committee in consultation with
the State Government: Governor**

Continuing his effort to address the communication bottleneck particularly in air connectivity, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa has approached the Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati for minimum of 3 to 4 airports to cover the most of the districts of the State.

In his letter to the Union Minister on 13th November 2015, the Governor impressed upon him that Arunachal Pradesh is the largest among the eight North Eastern States with difficult mountainous terrains, absolutely poor road, rail and air connectivity but very high tourism potential, in addition to being a very important strategic Frontier State having international borders with Bhutan, China and Myanmar.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh with its 83,743 Sq km of land area should have not one, but minimum of three to four airports to cover most of the Districts. He pointed that Assam, which has lower geographical area of about 79,000 Sq km has presently 6 airports.

Requesting the Union Minister to consider setting up of additional airports in addition to the already sanctioned Green Field Airport for the State, the Governor called for constituting of a high-power Expert Site Selection Committee in consultation with the State Government. This, the Governor said, will create re-confidence among the people of Arunachal Pradesh about the sincerity and confidence of the Central Government to fast track the development of the under developed State for benefiting the people and the Nation.

Reiterating his stand on the sanctioned Green Field Airport for the State, the Governor clarified that based on suggestions from many quarters regarding alleged malpractices in the land acquisition on behest of some powerful political leaders, he had suggested for a thorough scrutiny of all documents of the land owners covered under the acquisition process by CBI or and other Central Agency and meanwhile up-gradating adjacent Lilabari Airport in Assam, keeping in mind likely delay in constructing the Airport at Hollongi, for which all the clearances were reportedly not available. The Governor empathetically said that he had not recommended for scrapping of a Green Field Airport for the State or for abandoning Hollongi site.

Expressing surprise and dismay on the selectively leakage of his letter to Prime Minister in the Media to give a impression that he had recommended for scrapping of the only Green Field Airport Project for Arunachal Pradesh to benefit his Home State of Assam through upgrading of the Lilabari Airport, the Governor said that in order to dispel public apprehension on possible abandonment of the Project, Ministry of Civil

Aviation and Airport Authority of India must finalise all necessary steps on top priority basis for setting up the Airport at Hollongi or Karsingsa-Banderdewa or any other suitable site in Papum Pare District, based on techno-economic-social-environmental considerations. He also suggested that a vigilance mechanism should be put in place to ensure that there is no abnormality in its process of project implementation.

Acknowledging the letter from the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, the Union Minister of Civil Aviation on 19th November 2015 informed that the matter is being examined for appropriate action.

The Governor had also requested the Prime Minister on the issue.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, December 3, 2015