

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

US Consul General calls on the Governor

The US Consul General, Kolkata Mr. Craig L. Hall called on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 28th April 2016. It was a courtesy call. They discussed on areas of mutual interests and cooperation.

The Governor said that with better US India relationship, the people of the State look forward for stronger and healthier ties between the people of the two largest and oldest democracies, with special provisions for tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Highlighting on the vast potentials of the State in term of hydropower, horticulture, minerals, tourism and other allied sectors, the Governor emphasised on investments and joint ventures. Stating that it is an Organic State with huge horticultural production, he advised for exploring better market links and US food processing expertise. He also suggested for medical specialities for the State in addition to training in highly skilled job.

The Governor stressed on programmes in higher and technical educations, like student and faculty exchange programmes, US scholarship and stipends for the tribal students of the State, admission in US Universities and setting up of US University Campus in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh inspite of tremendous scope and much potential, the State lacks behind in infrastructure development in Agriculture and allied sectors, roads projects for improved connectivity with interior areas, power development projects, irrigation and water resources including projects for management of flood, erosion etc. by the five big rivers; i.e. Lohit, Dibang, Siang, Subansiri and Kameng and many of their tributaries, landslides etc. due non-sanction of developmental fund from World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Asian Development Bank. Other than Arunachal Pradesh, all the States of India and countries all over the world are availing financial assistances for infrastructure development from the International funding agencies. The State does not receive single penny from International Financial Institutions. He said that US must see that this interior and easternmost part of India is not deprived of its legitimate right and aspirations for funding of developmental assistance from International Banks due to some reservations of some countries. The Governor requested the Consul General to exercise his good offices with the US Government for favourably supporting the funding proposals for development of Arunachal Pradesh which is and was an integral part of India.

The US Consul General, who is on a three-day visit to the State assured to take up the issue of funding of development projects of Arunachal Pradesh with US Government and the International Financial Institutions. He suggested joint ventures and partnership in trade and commercial sectors through Commercial Service Office of the US Consulate, Kolkata. As the US Consulate is aware of the US companies interested in contract works for infrastructure development in India, and in the North East in particular with special focus on Arunachal Pradesh, the Consulate office may be informed of international tenders for quality and latest technology based projects. The Governor advised the Government of Arunachal Pradesh officers present to widely circulate the tenders for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) through the Internet and also keep the US Consulate informed.

The US Consulate General also briefed the Governor on Fulbright Scholar program and Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, funded by the U.S. Department of State. He informed that only 2% of participants are from North East region and institutions in US are interested in students from different cultures and regions, thereby providing students of NE more chances in availing the opportunities. The Governor thanked the Consul General for this input and desired that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh Education Department should assist the students to avail such benefits on priority.

Secretary to Governor Dr. Joram Beda gave a PowerPoint presentation on the potentials and avenues for investments in Arunachal Pradesh such as hydropower, tourism, horticulture, food processing, hospitality, handloom and handicrafts, mineral based industries and service and education sectors in the meeting. He also highlighted on 'Single Window Clearance' policy of the State to facilitate investment.

Dr. Beda also presented an overview of the development activities of the state in different sectors and showed that there was 'Zero funding' from external funding agencies.

Chief Secretary in-charge Shri Satya Gopal, and Director Tourism Shri Karma Leki were also present in the meeting. The US Consul General was accompanied by Ms Tinku Roy, Political Affairs Specialist, US Consulate, Kolkata.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, April 29, 2016