

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

Press Communiqué

Pangsau Pass Trade Study Group 2022 submits reports to the Governor

Under the Government of India's 'Act East' and the more proactive 'Act Fast' approach, Arunachal Pradesh is poised to play a pivotal role as India's gateway to Southeast Asia: Governor

Governor emphasizes that sustainable progress must be anchored in a balanced approach that safeguards national interests while enabling economic opportunities for local communities

Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, a distinguished development economist and Chair of the Pangsau Pass Trade Study Group (2022), called on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. Gen. K. T. Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.), at Lok Bhavan, Itanagar, on 2nd May 2026. They discussed regional connectivity, economic transformation, and the strategic future of India's eastern frontier.

During the meeting, Prof. Lama formally submitted a comprehensive set of reports, including the findings and policy recommendations of the Pangsau Pass Trade Study, an initiative commissioned by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Drawing on extensive field research and regional analysis, he outlined the evolving development dynamics of Northeast India and emphasized the immense potential of reconnecting Arunachal Pradesh with Southeast Asian economies through historic trade routes such as Pangsau Pass. He highlighted how improved connectivity, border trade facilitation, and infrastructure development could catalyze livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and cross-border cooperation.

The Governor appreciated the depth and vision of the study, noting that such evidence-based policy inputs are vital for shaping the State's growth trajectory. He underscored that under the Government of India's 'Act East' and the more proactive 'Act Fast' approach, Arunachal Pradesh is poised to play a pivotal role as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

Referring to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the Northeast as 'Ashtalakshmi', the Governor remarked that the region is increasingly being recognized as a driver of national growth and strategic engagement. He said that the resolve to Act East and Act Fast reflects India's commitment to harness the full potential of this region.

At the same time, the Governor also highlighted the importance of addressing security considerations in tandem with development initiatives, especially in sensitive border areas. He emphasized that sustainable progress must be anchored in a balanced approach that safeguards national interests while enabling economic opportunities for local communities.

Shri Sonyung Modi, Director of Trade and Commerce Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh was present in the meeting.

It may be recalled that Prof. Lama also presented the Nathu La Trade Study Group report to the Governor, recalling his tenure as General Officer Commanding in Sikkim during the reopening of the historic Nathu La trade route.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, May 2, 2026