

Singh lobbies for Arunachal



NEWDELHI, Apr. 02: Tourism Minister Ambika Soni has committed Rs. 70 lakh for promoting rural tourism in Arunachal Pradesh and for additional cable cars over the waterfalls in Lumpo area of Tawang district, reports secretary to governor.

She said this after her meeting with Arunachal Pradesh Governor General (Retd) JJ Singh,

who, continuing his endeavour for the state's development, briefed her about the tourism industries' potential to change the socio-economic life of Arunachal.

Singh later met Railways Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, who, in a goodwill gesture, offered a toy-train for the children of Arunachal. The governor thanked him for sanctioning the Harmuti-Itanagar

railway line, while promising that the land acquisition work will be done expeditiously. Singh also highlighted the Rupai-Parashuramkund railway line and proposed that the Jan-Shatabdi Express run between Harmuti and Guwahati.

During his meeting with Telecom and IT Minister A Raja, the minister promised that best efforts would be made to ensure telecommunication and mobile connectivity to all the 34 administrative centres in Arunachal which are not connected by road, and to the border areas.

Raja informed Singh that 3 private companies would be asked to set up the mobile communication infrastructure in the state. The governor urged the minister to strengthen the communication infrastructure with USO (Universal Service Obligation) funds.

Singh also met Union Minister of Civil Aviation Praful Patel (in picture) and emphasized that the development of the Greenfield airport at Itanagar and 9 other airstrips in different parts of Arunachal should preferably be finished within 2-3 years.

The governor advocated more STOL (short take off and landing) capacity airstrips to cover the mountainous regions of Arunachal Pradesh, the report adds.