

Arunachal has huge potentials: Ansari

'Ziro a hidden diamond'

ITANAGAR, Nov 25: The PM's package indicates that New Delhi has realized the importance of Arunachal, said Dr. Md Hamid Ansari when the governor, Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu and his cabinet colleagues called on the him at Raj Bhavan here today, reports PRO to governor.

The State has lots of potential and the Planning Commission has to change its population-based criteria to help the state, he said.

During the hour-long meeting, the vice president was apprised of various developments and the initiatives of the state government. Ansari lauded the state government for creating an investment-friendly atmosphere through its new industrial policy.

Highlighting about the state, the governor said the people of the state are one of the most patriotic and with democratic spirit deeply entrenched in them. He advocated more priority to state considering its



The vice president couple in traditional Apatani attire at Ziro as the governor (1st from L) adores them – AFND

uniqueness and sensitivity.

He said PM's package includes airports, railway lines, roads, electricity which is helping Arunachal to open up.

Supporting the governor, Khandu said the people are happy because with the PM's package which indicated a clear and louder

message.

On Trans-Arunachal highway, Gen Singh added that the gigantic project would benefit only the Arunachalees. The post of Chief Engineer (Highways) has been created and senior officers of ministry of road transport posted, he said in response to a question.

The governor highlighted on power projects, raising of four battalions of Arunachal Scouts and initiative on tourism as part of its dedicated effort to address unemployment and proposed for creation of gene bank of flora and fauna, which he had taken up with World Geography during his

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From P.I... recent visit to USA.

Advocating for rights of the local populace on its forest, the governor said Arunachal should not be equated with other States, as it has unique characteristics. People should not be deprived of their right or should be given some alternatives. Joining on this, the Chief Minister informed that his government has taken initiative and a high-level committee has been formed to take up the matter. Khandu also reiterated his demand for green and peace bonus.

While urging the vice president for his help in the recruitment of more local youths in armed forces, the CM said, as they are well acquainted with the topography and well built which will be suitable to the forces.

Pointing at the population based programmes, Khandu pointed that GOI stressed on family planning but when it comes to projects, such as roads etc. it is based on more population, which the Vice President agreed.

Later, secretary to governor and planning PS Lokhande gave a power point presentation on the PM's package and progress of 16 projects.

Home Minister Jarbom Gamlin, PHED Minister Lombo Tayeng, Industries Minister Tanga Byaling, Sport and Youth affairs Minister Atum Welly and Forest Minister Newlai Thingkhatra were present in the meeting.

The vice president, who arrived along with his wife Salma this noon on his



Vice president with the governor at Raj Bhawan – DIPRO.

maiden visit to the state was accorded a ceremonial state reception at the Raj Bhawan helipad here by the governor, CM and his cabinet colleagues, senior civil and police official and cultural troupes.

DIPRO adds from ZIRO: The vice president, who visited Lower Subansiri district today called Ziro a hidden diamond within the mountainous forests of Northeast India, reports DIPRO.

Citing the similarity of the numerical 'zero' and the name of the district headquarters, Ansari said Ziro has its own importance in the development of the tourism sector, just like zero has its in the development of science and mathematics.

Ansari, who was briefed by state governor on the steps being taken by the state government to develop the tourism sector, advised the people to use this resource for self sustenance and for the economic development of the state and the country. He advised creating wide publicity for the beauty of the land to attract tourists and entrepreneurs.

Ansari, accompanied by his wife Salma, also visited a traditional Apatani house in Hari village.

The state's first lady Anupama Singh, L/ Subansiri deputy commissioner Sadhana Deori and local MLA Nani Ribia also accompanied the vice president, the report adds.