

ECHO OF ARUNACHAL
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Itanagar-Harmuti rail link to help brace local economy, says Governor

ITANAGAR, Feb 16: State Governor Gen (Retd) J J Singh opined the Itanagar-Harmuti railway project should help reinforce the local economy while seeking total involvement of local populace at the same time for making it a success, which also applies in case of any development project meant for the state.

He made the observation while interacting with railway officials at Harmuti Railway Station today.

Commenting on the model of Narharlagun Railway Station, Gen Singh stressed the use of cane and bamboo items in its furnishing. "It should have ethnic flavour. It will indirectly help get the involvement of local people and give impetus to socio-economic development", he pointed.

Seeking cooperation from neighbouring State of Assam, the Governor said, with projects worth 20 to 30 thousand crores coming up in Arunachal Pradesh but as downstream effect, one third of the amount will go to help up Assam economy. Therefore, the need of the hour is that Assam also sees it as its own and help in early implementation of railway project, he added.

With its importance on national security perspective, the Governor exuded hope with direct monitoring of the Prime Minister's Office and Third Party

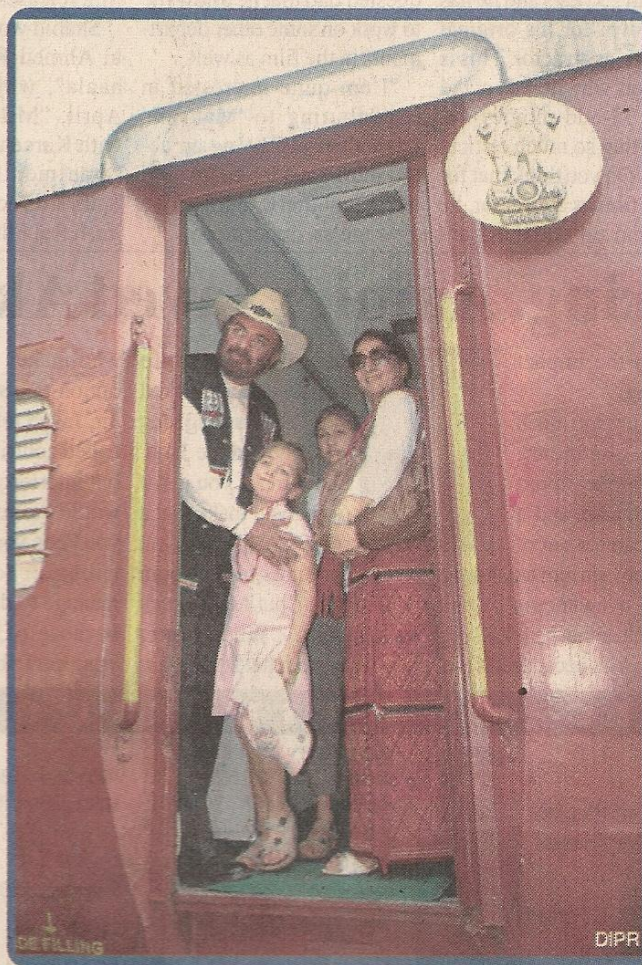
Monitoring; it will be implemented properly and in time.

Gen Singh, who have been travelling a lot in the Northeastern Frontier Railways during his twelve years of his service life said termed it as the lifeline and said, we need to maintain it properly.

On the broad gauge project from Rangiya to Murkongselek, he felt it will have direct impact on the state's economy and enquired of the basic facilities, including ticketing and other amenities in the stations along the track.

As for proper maintenance of the Harmuti Station, Gen Singh asked the Rangiya Railway Divisional manager for its facelift with development of infrastructures saying the surroundings should be clean and hygienic. Adequate fund should be provided for it, as it will be important junction in two years, he said.

Chief Engineer B K Tirkey, North Eastern Frontier Railway, Maligaon, briefed on the status of work of Harmuti-Itanagar new broad gauge project. He informed that the first phase of the project will be completed by 2012. Citing slow pace of land acquisition in Assam side and inter-state land dispute, the CE requested the Governor for his good office in expediting the work. Already 1.3 Km of work in



the railway land has been completed and 4 Km in Arunachal Pradesh is going to be completed, very soon, he added.

Later, along with his wife Anupama Singh and Secretary to

Governor Ankur Garg, Gen Singh availed the ride from Harmuti to Gogamukh to see for himself the basic facilities and other provisions meant for the passengers.