

**PRESS RELEASE NO- 731**

**Roads to border areas should primarily be treated as development projects- Governor**

**Itanagar, August 5:** Roads to border areas should primarily be treated as development projects and benefits to Defence forces are only supplementary, said Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh, when General Officer Commanding in Chief of Eastern Army Command, Lt Gen Bikram Singh called on the Governor Gen JJ Singh at Raj Bhavan on Aug 5 last. Governor asked the Army Commander to ensure early completion of the repair and maintenance works of Tawang-Tezpur road, while dwelling at length on the importance of roads especially in the border areas. The upgradation works on this all-important road, which links the world renowned District of Tawang with the nearest airport at Tezpur is being undertaken by the Border Road Organization, reports PRO to Governor.

The Governor and GOC-in-C also discussed the land requirement for the 1st Battalion of Arunachal Scouts, which was raised on 10th November 2010. Calling for early sanctioning of at least three additional battalions of Arunachal Scouts, Gen Singh said that in addition to employment avenues for the local youth, it will also help the army to harness the full potential, inborn skills and strong physical and mental abilities of North-East people, the basic qualities required in any army combatant.

Sharing his concern on the Law and Order problems in Tirap and Changlang districts with Lt Gen Singh, Governor asked the Army Commander to ensure early deployment of the sanctioned Brigade at Khonsa.

While referring to surrender of several misguided youths in the recent months, including the three cadres from NSCN (K) on August 4 last, Gen Singh asked the army to provide vocational training to them. Such initiative will help these youth stand on their feet and ultimately get absorbed back into the mainstream society, he pointed.

Commending the Eastern Army Command for their professionalism and proactive role in taking care of the strategic requirement of the Frontier State of Arunachal Pradesh, Governor emphasized taking up of more Operation Sadbhavana projects through out the State by the Army.

Lt Gen Bikram Singh assured the Governor that he would take up a case with Ministry of Defence for financing the land acquisition cost for company locations of Arunachal Scouts.

Addressing the Former Army Chief as a Soldier-Statesman, Lt Gen Bikram Singh expressed his hope that the State and the Army will continue to benefit from vast experience and administrative acumen of Governor Gen Singh. The Army Commander also assured his best cooperation to be partners in the development process of the State and the Region.

The GOC in C by accompanied 4 Corps General Officer Commanding, Lt Gen Shakti Gurung. Secretary to Governor Ankur Garg was also present in the meeting.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO