

The Arunachal Times

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Bridge over Siang to be ready by July



PASIGHAT June 5: The people of Arunachal and especially the people of Siang districts and Dibang Valley have something to cheer about. The 763.50 metre bridge over Siang River at Ranaghat in Pasighat would be ready for use by July this year.

The Officer-in-charge BCC-Gammon India LTD said this in response to an appeal by IPR Minister Appeal Lombo Tayeng for early completion of the bridge. The Bridge has been in news for all the wrong reasons.

The bridge took almost

two decades to complete due to various reasons right from technical flaws to wrong selection of site besides faulty geological and hydrological surveys, the key inputs required for such a vital bridge.

The foundation stone of the bridge was laid by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during 1988 and the year of completion of the project was set for September 1991.

A project of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the bridge is being executed by Mumbai-based Gammon India Limited. The estimated

cost of the bridge was fixed at Rs 11.34 crore but the real cost shot up to 25 crore due to price escalation and the company is bearing the additional cost as per the agreement.

In 2000 flash floods destroyed company's infrastructure, including a crane worth Rs 3 crore.

Taking serious exception to the delay, state Governor Gen (Retd) J J Singh after a visit to the site had threatened that heads of those responsible for the inordinate delay would roll if it was not completed by March. (See P-2)

Bridge over...

(From P-1) Finally the wait seems to be over. Well almost over, if one believes the construction agency.

It was not only the Governor who was upset at the delay. Former DoNER Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar while on a visit to construction site had expressed dismay over the non-completion of a bridge

Aiyar said it was very unfortunate to see that a bridge of utter importance to the people of the area still remains incomplete even after two decades and had asked the constructing agency to give a time-frame for its early completion. (ATNS with input from DIPRO)