

Army deployment gets a booster

# Khandu-Army top brass review security issues



**ITANAGAR July 22:** The deployment of 1 lakh army personnel, including 40,000 this year in Arunachal Pradesh as announced by the Centre got a boost today with a team of top ranking army officers holding discussion with Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu regarding land to locate two divisions of the army.

A team of top ranking army officers led by 3 Corps GOC Lt Gen RK Loomba called on the chief minister and held discussion covering the security scenario of the state along with allocation of land for establishment of two army divisions at a high level meeting here, reports PRO to CM.

Confirming the reports of army deployment, state Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh had told media persons on June 6 last here that the deployment along the 1080-km Sino-India border

in the state was “a part of planned augmentation of our capabilities to meet national security challenges.... The people should not be anxious. The situation on the Sino-India border is peaceful and stable.”

The army team included 2 Mountain Division GOC Maj Gen BS Sachar and four others, while state's Chief Secretary Tabom Bam, home and land management commissioner Tajom Taloh and DGP Vimla Mehra were present in the meeting, reports PRO to CM.

While informing the army team that the state government has initiated steps expeditiously on its plea for land allocation by constituting a high level committee, the chief minister reiterated that a senior officer should be stationed at Itanagar immediately for liaising with the state government

officials on the issue. Moreover, he directed the land management commissioner to identify a suitable land for the army's firing range as the land given by the state government earlier have been de-notified.

However, Khandu emphasized on grant of adequate compensation to the state government as per laid down norms against allocated land.

The chief minister also suggested that considering the importance of Miao-Vijaynagar road, it should be taken over by the army for making it motorable in the view of its strategic location.

The chief minister enquired about the status of progress of work of eight advanced landing grounds (ALGs) which were handed over to the defence ministry through a memorandum by the state government

last month and exhorted the army to expedite the work.

In response, Lt Gen Loomba informed that while Vijaynagar ALG has been made functional, works are in progress in other seven ALGs.

Lt Gen Loomba also informed that in addition to the army companies in Tirap, one additional battalion will be deployed soon to tackle the menace of insurgency, the report added.

Meanwhile, the governor during a meeting with the army officers at Raj Bhawan later stressed the need to ensure that Arunachal remains free of any negative elements, especially in Tirap and Changlang districts, reports his PRO.

The officers assured the governor of the army's meaningful and positive contribution towards the security and prosperity of the state's people, the report adds.

The army has intensified its patrolling on NH 52 following the IED blast near Bhalukpong on July 13 that led to the death of an army colonel and a *jawan*. Army proved its vigil when three suspected Naga militants were killed in an encounter with the army along Assam-Arunachal border in Lakhimpur district on Sunday night.

## Guv advocates *sadbhawna* projects

**ITANAGAR, July 22:** Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh today emphasized on the need for carrying out *sadbhawna* projects by the army, including establishing model villages and model schools in the state, as is being done in other places by the armed forces, reports his PRO.



He conveyed his views when 3 Corps GOC Lt Gen RK Loomba and 2 Mountain Division GOC Maj Gen BS Sachar called on him at Raj Bhawan today, reports his PRO.