

**Press Release**

During his day long visit to New Delhi today, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb held a series of official meetings with senior Ministers and officials from various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

During the day, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb met Shri Manohar Kumar, the Chairman and Managing Director of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) Limited. During the meeting Hon'ble Chief Minister raised the pertinent issue of **fast-tracking the completion of border fencing work** especially on the eastern sector in Tripura. Hon'ble Chief Minister asked the CMD, NPCC to take up this work on mission mode. CMD, NPCC, Shri Kumar assured the Hon'ble CM that the work shall be undertaken on mission mode and shall be completed at the earliest.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb also held a detailed meeting with officials of **NBCC (India) Ltd.** led by their Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Anoop Kumar Mittal with regards to **fast-tracking of the completion of road construction work** and certain portions of fencing work in Tripura. Hon'ble Chief Minister drew the attention of the team of NBCC Officials regarding the work being undertaken at slow pace and asked them to **expedite the pace of work** in the state. The projects to be earlier finished by Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (**HECL**), which are now taken over by NBCC were also reviewed during the meeting. Dr. Mittal assured the Hon'ble CM that NBCC shall ensure faster completion of both road construction as well as border fencing work in the state. He further informed the Hon'ble Chief Minister that work **on more than 50% of the total pending projects** earlier allocated to HECL **worth more than Rs.100 crore** has already been started and it is scheduled **to be finished by March 2019**. He assured the Hon'ble CM that NBCC shall continue to play a constructive role in the development of world-class infrastructure in Tripura.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also held a meeting with Official from Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas where he asked for progress being undertaken under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to be expedited in order to ensure a cooking-gas connection in each and every household in the state at the earliest. Through the effective implementation of this Scheme, much needed relief to the Nari Shakti of Tripura can be provided. It is worth noting that since the new Government under the leadership of CM Shri Biplab Kumar Deb took over, 1.5 lac gas connections have already been delivered in the state of Tripura.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb then met **Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore**, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C). Shri Deb apprised the Union Minister regarding the various initiatives being undertaken by the State Government of Tripura for promotion and development of sports in the state of Tripura under its 'Khelo Tripura' mission. Hon'ble CM also informed Shri Rathore regarding the preparations of the **North Eastern Youth Festival 2018** which is going to be held next month in the state of Tripura. Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Rathore appreciated the good work being done in this field by the State Government under Shri Deb and also ensured full support from the Union Government for development of a robust sporting culture in Tripura. Hon'ble Union Minister also expressed satisfaction with the progress of the arrangements being made for the North Eastern Youth Festival in the state.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb then met **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping. During the meeting, various key issues with regards to the development of infrastructure in the state of Tripura were discussed. The proposal to sanction the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for **NH 44A (Manu-Shimlung) and NH-208 (Kailashahar-Teliamura)** was accepted by the Union Minister and the work on the same shall soon be initiated on these projects. The proposal plan for alignment of NH-108B made by the State Government was also accepted during the discussions in the meeting. Hon'ble Union Minister also assured the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the maintenance work for the National Highways in the state shall be expedited and the same shall undertaken by State Public Works Department (PWD) in coordination with NHIDCL. Also a very important decision with regard the undertaking of **35km of dredging work** was taken during this meeting due to which the **waterway between the Meghna river and Gomati River can become operational**. This decision shall give a significant boost to the efforts being made to make **Tripura can become a new Gateway for entire North-East India**.

Hon'ble Chief Minister later in the evening also met **Shri Ram Vilas Paswan**, Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI). During this meeting, the Hon'ble Union Minister assured the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the **procurement** of paddy by the **Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Tripura** shall be locally done from the **farmers of the state**. He further informed that the same shall be done at the newly increased **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** which shall **benefit lakhs of farmers** in the state. This procurement shall initiate from the month of December later this year.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb also met **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Railways and Coal. During this meeting, Hon'ble Chief Minister held extensive discussions on the subject of **increasing coal linkages** for the state of Tripura and regarding various **issues pertaining to improving railway connectivity** in the state with the Hon'ble Union Minister.