

**Delegation from NITI Aayog met Chief Minister**  
**State government is working on development of industrial**  
**sector based on natural resources: Chief Minister**

A delegation of NITI Aayog yesterday embarked on a three-day state visit to strengthen joint initiatives between the centre and the states for integrated and sustainable development. The visiting delegation led by member of NITI Aayog Dr. V.K Saraswat met Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha at the Chief Minister's official residence last evening to outline the strategic initiatives of the NITI Aayog. In the meeting, it was decided to emphasize joint efforts by strengthening local initiatives and eliminating regional constraints for the overall development of the state. In the meeting, Chief Minister Dr. Saha said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi thinks that the development of the country is not possible if the North Eastern region is not developed. As a result of the sincere efforts of the Prime Minister, there has been massive development of infrastructure in various fields including health, communication, information technology, tourism in the state. The state government is working on the inspiration of the Prime Minister's decision for the development of the North Eastern region. The Chief Minister said that the state has abundant natural resources including rubber, agar, bamboo, natural gas, pineapple, jack-fruit. Based on these, the state government is working for the development of the industrial sector. In this regard, the Chief Minister also sought the overall cooperation of the NITI Aayog.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister said that as a result of the sincere efforts of the Prime Minister, there has been great development in the communication in the state by road, rail and air. There are currently 6 national highways in the state. 4 more National Highways have received approval from the Central Government. Also 4 ropeways got approval for construction.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is working sincerely to provide better health services to the people of all parts of the state. District and Sub-Divisional hospitals have been strengthened to reduce the pressure of referral patients in the state's main hospitals GBP and IGM hospital. Trauma care centres have already been set up in various district hospitals of the state to provide quick medical services. In terms of health services, the state currently has many public and private health institutions including 2 medical colleges, dental college, nursing colleges. Initiatives will be taken to set up health institutions in the state on PPP model in the coming days.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister also said that the law and order in the state is now satisfactory. Therefore, foreign investors are also showing interest in investing in various sectors of the state. The Chief Minister also sought logistical support from NITI Aayog for the overall development of the state. In the meeting Secretary J. K. Sinha, Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department Kiran Gitte, Secretary of Education Department Raval Hamendra Kumar, Secretary of Health Department Dr. Sandeep R. Rathod, Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr. Pradip Kumar Chakraborty and other Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of various departments were present.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Chief Minister said that discussions were held with the delegation of NITI Aayog on how the state can be taken forward in various fields including agriculture, health, IT, communication, Tourism. The delegation expressed satisfaction at the meeting after seeing the development parameters of various sectors in the state. Besides, the NITI Aayog delegation has also advised the state government to resolve the issues related to the development of the sector. The Chief Minister told reporters that the meeting also laid emphasis on setting up health institutions on PPP model for the development of health infrastructure.