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Agartala, 29th May, 2018

## Press Release

Hon'ble Chief Minister met Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog Dr. Rajeev Kumar in Delhi today. Detailed discussions were held relating to development of Tripura.

Hon'ble Chief Minister raised the issue of fund constraint in the State particularly due to insufficient recommendations of 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, especially the pre-devolution gap. Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog appreciated the position of the State Government and agreed in principle to recommend grant of assistance to the State for the pre-devolution gap amounting to Rs 2400 crores approximately. He stated that the recommendation would go to the Ministry of Finance with a day or two. He also assured that fund requirement projections under items like SSA, enhancement of Social Pension Schemes etc would be recommended by NITI Aayog to the relevant Ministries for consideration.

Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that to realize the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji to develop Tripura as a model State it was required that a proper action plan for development, with sectorial focus and clear time lines, be drawn up to assist the State in achieving this objective. Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog offered to depute an expert from NITI Aayog who could assist the State in developing such an action oriented road map for this purpose. Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomed this offer.

Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog suggested that pineapple and bamboo can be important factor in promoting growth in the State particularly in the agri-horticulture sector. He has suggested that he would try to get some international marketing expertize in pineapple who could arrange for proper linkages for pineapple exports. He also suggested that Tripura may benefit from having a paper plant in the State in view of its plentiful bamboo resources. He advised his officers to locate private manufacturers who could be encouraged to setup a paper plant in the State for this purpose.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura referred to the initiative taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister for the North East and in that context stated that completion of the bridge on river Feni in Sabroom and road connectivity to Chittagong Port would be a major step in this direction and a catalyst for the rapid development

of the North East. Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog promised to assist in having the work expedited by NHIDCL so that the bridge construction is completed at the earliest. He also assured that he would take up the matter with MEA and Bangladesh Government to make this project operational quickly.

Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog also suggested that a training programme for officers of the State Government could be organized to reorient the approach keeping in view the priorities and speed of work required to achieve the objectives. He suggested that a training programme on the lines of “Chintan Shivir” that was very successfully organized in Gujarat could be thought of. He promised to get the details of this initiative and pass it on to State Government for further action. Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog also informed that he would designate a senior officer from NITI Aayog to coordinate to various issues as discussed above on his behalf.

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