

**Report on the visit of Itanagar by Dr.H.T.Sangliana, Vice Chairperson,
National Commission for Minorities, Government of India,
Between 16th and 19th December, 2011**

After two attempts to visit Arunachal Pradesh that could not materialize because of the demise of the CM of Arunachal Pradesh who died in a chopper accident and subsequently due to change of CM, I finally visited the State between the 16th and 19th of December, 2011.

While going I travelled by chopper from Guwahati to Itanagar by chopper which took an hour and twenty minutes against the 6 hours by road between the two towns which I had to undergo on my return trip due to non-availability of chopper.

While at Itanagar, I had a meeting with the CM Shri Nabam Tuki, who took over the rein only one and a half months ago. We discussed various issues and I explained the advantage of having State minority Commission and I suggested that such a commission could take up various schemes under MoMA and other Ministries for the benefit of the minorities in the State. He was keen to examine the matter and I am hopeful that a State Minority Commission will be started in Arunachal Pradesh soon.

I interacted with the leaders of the Christian, Sikh and Buddhist communities and explained to them the various helps that the Government of India can give to them. They were advised to request the CM to open a State Minority Commission in which they can become stakeholders.

I advised the Sikh community to apply for grant of suitable site to build a Gurudwara based on agreements like long or short term lease so that they can conduct their religious activities without any danger of opposition in the future. In response to my advice, a petition was written by the Sikh community to the CM with a copy to the NCM for follow up action. I have brought back a copy to the NCM headquarters

for further needful. On their request, I visited the Gurudwara and spent some time with the Sikh community and exchanged views on various points of interest.

I also visited the Buddhist shrine and met the Grand Priest. He had no issue to be taken up with the NCM or the Government of India.

No Muslims were found at Itanagar for contact as they are reportedly residing in the Assam-Arunachal borders. On enquiry, intermarriages between migrant Muslims and native Arunachal girls were reported to have been taking place in the Assam and Nagaland borders.

I confirmed the report of the DGP to whom I had earlier written a letter to furnish report on the alleged conversion of some tribes in the Nagaland-Arunachal borders at gun point. The DGP has given in writing that no such forceful conversion had taken place as alleged and the District Police has been alerted to prevent any such happenings particularly by Naga insurgents from Myanmar and India. The report received from the DGP is enclosed.

I also addressed gathering of Christians who were celebrating Christmas in advance at two places and shared with them the need to maintain peace, brotherhood and communal harmony in the country.

The Governor of AP was on leave and out of station.

I was the State Guest and complimentary protocol was extended to me in full. The visit on the whole was beneficial as I could publicize the vision and mission of the NCM to government officials and public leaders.

(Dr.H.T.Sangliana)
Vice Chairman, NCM
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