

Gangtok, April 4:(IPR) The Civil Military Liaison Conference (CMLC) was held today on 04/04/2018 at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok between the State administration and the Army.

The CMLC is an annual Conference which provides platform for discussions between the civil administration and the Army on many issues of mutual and national interests.

Held annually, it is hosted alternately by the State Government and the Army. This year it was hosted by the State Government and was headed by Shri A.K. Shrivastava, Chief Secretary, while the Army was helmed by Major General NSR Subramani, GOC, 17 Mountain Division. The heads of many State Government Departments like Home Department, Forest, Tourism, Finance, Transport, Power, Land Revenue and the Sikkim Police participated in the meeting.

In his welcome speech, the Chief Secretary lauded the role of the Indian Army in nation building process. He placed on record his deep appreciation for the help provided by them at the time of natural disasters. Further, the Chief Secretary also stated that the State Government was committed to the welfare of Army pensioners and the war widows. The cooperation extended by the Army in conduct of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was also lauded.

In his opening remarks, the GOC articulated his appreciation for the cooperation extended by the State Government since he joined office from January this year. He desired for more meetings between the Civil and the Army authorities at different levels for resolution of pending issues.

The issues discussed in this year's CMLC revolved around matters pertaining to law and order, forest land and acquisition of private land by the Army for infrastructural development. The discussions were held in three parts: (a) review of the minutes of the last CMLC held in 2015 (b) Discussions on Agenda Points forwarded by the Army and (c) the Agenda Points of the State Government.

The CMLC was held in an extremely convivial and cordial atmosphere and both sides showed resolve to settle the issues which were discussed. In his closing remarks, the GOC thanked the State Government for the fruitful meeting and the deliberations ahead.

