

PRESS RELEASE

Cross Border Bus service between Imphal (India) and Mandalay (Myanmar)

With a focus on strengthening relations and increasing people to people contact with neighbouring countries, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has been in discussion with the Transport Planning Department of the Ministry of Rail Transportation of Myanmar for introducing cross border bus service from Imphal (Manipur) to Mandalay (Myanmar).

An Indian delegation led by Mr Niraj Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways visited Nay Pyi Taw, capital of Myanmar on June 13, 2014 to attend an Inter-Ministerial Technical Level Meeting to negotiate and finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and related protocol agreements for the proposed bus service. The Indian delegation consisted of representatives from Ministry of External Affairs, State Government of Manipur and the Deputy Chief of Mission in Indian Embassy in Myanmar. The Myanmar side was led by Mr. Sann Aung, Director General, Transport Planning Department, Ministry of Rail Transportation and had representatives from all concerned Ministries and Agencies of Myanmar Government.

During the discussions held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the leaders of the delegations from both sides highlighted the importance accorded to the bus service between Imphal and Mandalay for greater people to people contact and enhanced bilateral relations and the commitment of the two countries to work towards early start of the bus service by finalizing the MoU and related protocols. The Indian side also briefed the Myanmar side about the status of construction of road from Kalewa to Yargyi in Myanmar being implemented with Indian assistance and on steps being taken by the Government of India for construction of 70 bridges on the Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa Friendship Road in Myanmar which forms part of the proposed India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and also the preferred route for the Imphal – Mandalay bus service.

The text of MoU, which was earlier finalized in the bilateral inter-ministerial technical level meeting held on 17 September, 2012 was reviewed clause by clause by the representatives of the two delegations and adopted during the meeting. The draft text of the Protocol for implementation of the MoU exchanged by the Parties was taken up for clause by clause discussion and adopted an agreed text of the protocol and its annexures. The leaders of the delegation at the conclusion of the meeting initialed the copies of the agreed texts of MoU, Protocol and its annexures and exchanged the copies of the initialed documents with the understanding that the initialed text of the MoU, the Protocol and its Annexures shall be submitted to competent authorities on both sides for final approval within the shortest possible time by both sides. It was agreed that both sides will work towards signing the MoU and Protocol at the earliest on mutually convenient date and venue in order to facilitate early starting of the Imphal-Mandalay bus service.