

Somra tells a good tale of transition in Myanmar:::

In the last few years after Myanmar steps into transitional phase, Somra has shown an impressive economic progress and testified the commitment of Thein Sein's government to develop areas bordering her neighbour India.

Somra, a Tangkhul village situated about 16-km from international border inside Myanmar, is the nearest town from Tusom village in northern Ukhul. In recent time, it has been upgraded to sub-township under Layshee and Thein Sein's government has initiated remarkable infrastructural developments. A 29-km ride on rugged road from Tusom village, located 150-km from Ukhul headquarters, leads up to a black-topped road in Somra, where small businesses boom in every lane of the village, and incandescent bulbs sparkle by evening—all thanks to the initiative of a local who owns a small power supply firm.

On development front, Somra paces ahead of Tusom village, the last Indian border village in the North-eastern Ukhul where there is no electricity, no healthcare service and connectivity in deplorable state. A country that was once known for its iron rule under military Junta exhibits a paradigm shift in its policy at domestic and foreign front.

There is no security check point at the entrance of the border village, and Indian nationals from Ukhul now have a free access to Myanmar's soil.

The Thein Sein's government is now connecting Somra with a 38-feet double-lane highway via Leiyum and Phungtrate from Layshee, the biggest town in the north-western border under Naga Hills province. Indian manufactured five land excavators has been stationed near its military post here and are ready to press into service for the road construction.

In 2013, the Myanmar government has constructed a hospital at Somra - where professional physicians and nurses are all posted from the country's capital Rangon.

For the past several years, the inhabitants along Somra tract were dependent on the Indian side for medicines. Locals are now overwhelmingly happy with the new hospital that now even conducts surgeries for patients. The developmental progress taking place in Somra Tract in the last two years has awed border villagers in Ukhul. A Tusom local VVngam Shatsang opined that the Thein Sein's government has been taking serious interest in boosting border trade with India.

After the declaration of opening international border haat at Tusom village, he said, Myanmar has been very keenly implementing works to facilitate the proposed border haat at Somra. Member of Parliament Shidi, who hails and elected from Somra, has been in constant touch with both villagers from across the border. He has put in serious effort, as per the locals, to materialise the border haat—as planned through bilateral agreement between India and Myanmar.

The New Delhi has agreed to set up the border haat at Tusom Village and Border Liaison Office (BLO), a project that has never seen the daylight till today.



