

## First lady calls for efforts to tap indigenous textile and handicrafts



First lady Anupama Singh with senior officials and artisans of textiles, handloom and handicraft department.

ITANAGAR, Nov 30: The First Lady Anupama Singh called for two-way approach in tapping the indigenous textile, handloom and handicrafts potentials of the State.

Renowned textile designer P. Singh stressed on

it while interacting with the senior officials and artisans of Textiles, Handloom and Handicrafts department at Raj Bhavan recently.

She said first approach is to do research work on the indigenous designs

and crafts and preserve it. Selected craft centers must be set up and produce textiles, handloom and handicraft items concentrating only on the traditional designs and textile. In addition, input of new ideas and designs to our produce to enhance the marketing values and avenues. This way, we can preserve our indigenous cultural heritage and also encash on its products, she said.

Singh, who had earlier taken up projects for designing of handicraft and textiles in Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Sikkim said, when I was at Tezu in early eighties, I got an original Mishmi shawl with exotic designs. Today it is very rare. Initiatives have to be taken to preserve those magnificent expertises, she stressed. (See P-3)

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(From P-1) Disclosing her wish to start an institution for 'Thangkha' painting, Singh, who is also a reputed painter herself said, there is a need for encouraging the youths and local artisans on traditional arts.

Stressing on the need to improve the State emporium, the First Lady pointed, it the face of the indigenous textiles and handicrafts. Efforts must be there to make it more presentable to guests and tourists. You have to work hard on the displays, she added and suggested that best products of the districts should be kept in the emporium. She also had intense discussion with the artisans, on the crafts and produces.

Director, Textiles, Handloom and Handicrafts Khoda Ruja expressed gratitude to the first lady for taking keen interest in the department and said we are encouraged to worker harder. He added, in order to enhance to rural economy, Non Governmental Organizations and unemployed youths are encouraged to take up projects. Playing the role of facilitators, we are imparting trainings to unemployed youths along with stipend against the training periods, he added. Ruja also highlighted on the initiatives of the State Government in its effort to address unemployment through the department.